



# Co. Tipperary GAA Yearbook

## Bliainiris Thiobraid Árann

### 1980



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# BLIAINIRIS THIOBRAID ÁRAINN

## TIPPERARY G.A.A. YEAR BOOK 1980

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF  
TIPPERARY COUNTY BOARD G.A.A.

### JOINT EDITORS

Bill O'Donnell and John O'Grady

### YEAR BOOK COMMITTEE

#### Cathaoirleach

Séamus Ó Riain

#### Runaí

Martin O'Connor

#### Coiste

Bill O'Donnell, John O'Grady, Michael McGuire,  
Michael McCarthy, Sean Nugent, Patrick McLoughlin

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## Ó CHÓMHAIRLE NA MUMHAN C.L.G.

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### SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP FIXTURES 1980

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#### HURLING

1st June.....S.H.C. – An Clár v. Portláirge.  
15th June .....S.H. Semi Final – Limerick v. An Clár no Portláirge.  
22nd June .....S.H. Semi-Final – Tiobraid Árann V. Corcaigh.  
20th July.....Cluiche Ceannais Iomána.

□□□

#### SENIOR FOOTBALL

11th May .....S.F.C. "A" – Tiobraid Árann v. Portláirge.  
11th May .....S.F.C. "B" – Luimneach v. An Clár.  
25th May .....S.F. Quarter-Final "C" – Tiobraid Árann v. Luimneach;  
Portláirge v. An Clár.  
8th June .....S.F. Semi-Final "D" – Corcaigh v. winners of "C".  
6th July.....Cluiche Ceannais Peile: Ciarrai v. winners of "D".

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## SCÓR 80 NA MUMHAN

### SCÓR NA nÓG SEMI-FINALS

Saturday, January 5th .....At Shanagolden or Killarney for Counties  
Kerry, Clare and Limerick.  
Saturday, January 12th .....At Buttevant or Mallow for Counties  
Cork, Tipperary and Waterford.  
Saturday, January 19th .....Final at Thurles.

### SCÓR NA SINSEAR SEMI-FINALS

Friday, February 15th.....At Killarney for Counties  
Kerry, Clare and Limerick.  
Saturday, February 23rd.....At Thurles for Counties  
Cork, Tipperary and Waterford.  
Sunday, March 9th.....At Savoy Cinema, Limerick – Final.

# EDITORIAL

WE PRESENT TO the Tipperary public the second edition under the auspices of basically the same sub-committee. Our aim has been to get together a publication worth buying, reading and keeping. We hope to deserve a repetition of last year's favourable response.

□ □ □

Our native games are, we think, in generally sound health throughout Tipperary, despite the problems natural to a world of multiple choice in sports activity. A huge total of games have been played during the season. Behind them, as the bigger part of the iceberg, lies the non-competitive but vital part, from the boy doubling a sponge ball against a gable end to the groups in training or just having fun.

□ □ □

Winning is an important aim. Winners occupy much of our text; they smile from several photographs; but the losers are more numerous and just as important a part of the Gaelic structure. Not every club has the size, the resources or the luck to bring home trophies. At the same time, one could hold up such parishes as Kilruane and Loughmore-Castleiney as models to envy and to copy. One of them is a proof that hard work can lift a club from the average to the supreme rank in its traditional code; the other illustrates how an area noted mainly for football can break through into hurling fame, given the right leadership and the proper ambition. The reward of dedication is success in many grades and assurance of young recruits coming into higher echelons of competition.

□ □ □

Tipperary prestige has in 1979 received some major uplifts. A pair of national titles is a very acceptable bag; the Hurling League returned after eleven years, the Under-21 All-Ireland after twelve. As editors we thank those victors; they have enabled us to celebrate solid achievements and lend a warm glow of pride to our bill of fare.

□ □ □

Things are moving in the literal constructional sense also. Despite an unhelpful hitch that cost

several weeks of good working weather, the Stadium development is well under way and bidding fair to give us a modern and adequate setting for the big days to come. The first should be Tipp's semi-final with Cork next June. Investors in the ten-year tickets should draw an exciting dividend for their valued support. We hope that in the meantime the rest of the available seats will be taken up. The sheer value in mere commercial terms, is great, but we think our patrons have a warmer motivation than that. Tipperary is at the heart of Ireland's hurling territory; Thurles, at the heart of Tipperary, has geographical and traditional claims to be the capital of the game. The project is no localised one – we are glad to see from the far-flung response to the ticket scheme that it is not regarded as such. The actual opening of the new premises will intensify the need for strong good-will towards clearing the debt.

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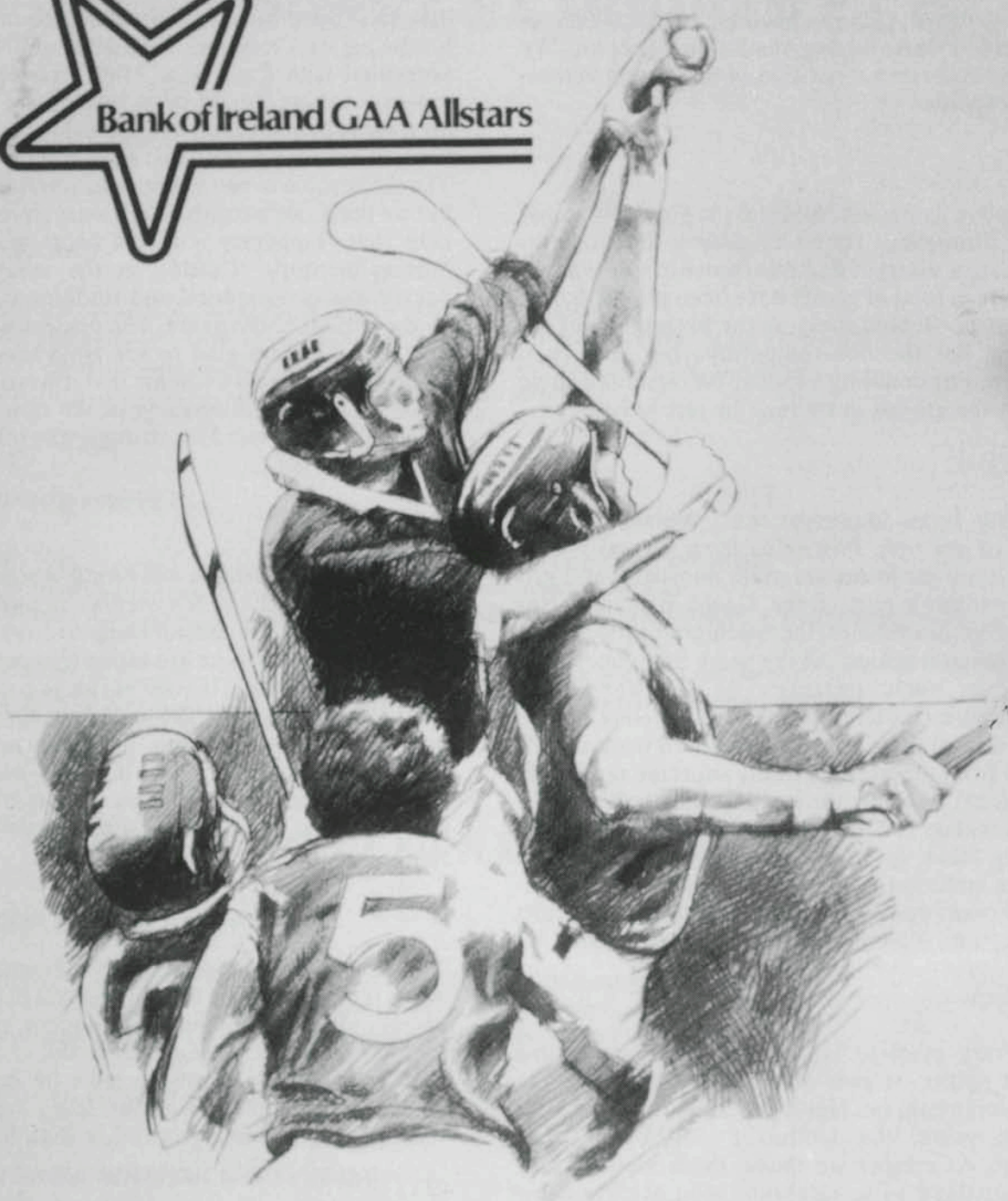
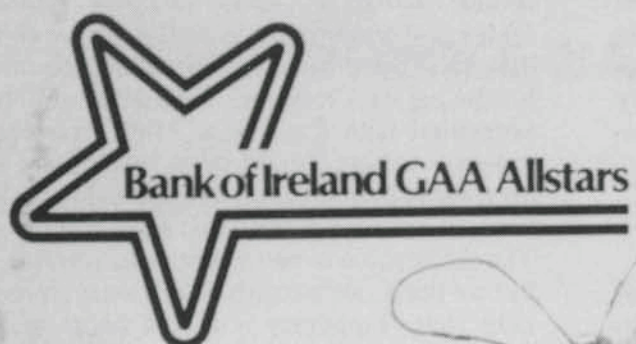
We hope this Yearbook will be considered an adequate record of the year's events and also a reminder of the past. We cannot claim to have captured all the activities – these are topics that never found their proper author. If your parish is not there we would be delighted if 1980 would produce deeds to make its inclusion next time absolutely imperative. We would be pleased, too, if young readers saw here something to give them entertainment and interest – and gave them a sense of the worth of things local.

□ □ □

We thank the advertisers. Their willingness to take space is our insurance for the financial health of the project. We know they are frequent targets for requirements and properly respectful of deadlines. We are especially happy to have on our list the names of great players of the fairly recent past, volunteering to wield pen rather than hurley.

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Awarded to the GAA Sportsmen of the Year

# LOOKING AHEAD

*By Michael Maher, Co. Chairman*

**A** WIN in the Hurling League was more than we expected at the beginning of the year but we did succeed in adding to our large number of National Hurling Leagues and in a most convincing fashion. So much so that we immediately were rated as serious challengers to Cork in a first round tie at Pairc Ui Caoimh. This game was great, the atmosphere, the crowd and the hurling were as good as ever. We were defeated but proud of our players.

Our under 21 hurlers brought an All-Ireland title to our county. To do so in any grade is a significant achievement and to have beaten Clare, Limerick, Cork, Antrim and Galway was something to be very pleased with.

We were unlucky to be beaten by Cork in minor hurling. Weather and ground conditions were bad leaving us very dissatisfied with the result of a very close encounter. The prospects for the year to come are good. We have the players, the willing officials, selectors, trainers and coaches. We need hard training and commitment. Our objectives are clear and worthwhile attaining.

We must be patient with our footballers. We certainly did not do ourselves justice against Cork in the senior competition. Our minors are promising. The special Coaching Course has been very successful. A very serious effort should be made to follow up on this course with diligent training by those concerned during the coming year.

Semple Stadium is a major development in progress in the county. It must be supported by the whole county. It is one of our contributions to Centenary Year. All our clubs and officials must be involved in fund raising for it during the coming years. *Ni neart go cur le ceile.*

The strength of the Association is in its clubs. They must be well run by confident and capable officials supported by loyal



MICHEAL Ó MEACAIR

members who are willing to share in the workload of running the club. To all our officers at club level I would say – make a resolution to have regular club meetings, decide on having your work done efficiently. Make sure you have a club membership properly recorded. Communicate with them during the year, organise your teams and do try some extra development each year.

Most successful clubs can attribute their progress to good club organisation while clubs having little achievements are principally so because of bad committees. Certainly there are problems to be overcome but it's the small items attended to well that make all the difference.

## Thanks to our Sponsors

Tipperary County Board wish to thank the following Sponsors for their generosity during the year.

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# A SENIOR YEAR OF RECOVERY AND PROMISE

By JOHN O'GRADY

**T**HERE ARE twin peaks to the hurling year – the League and the All-Ireland. In 1979 Tipperary made a determined assault on both. The first was scaled; the second proved an honourable failure. For a county that – to run the mountaineering metaphor to exhaustion – had stumbled about in the frustration of the foothills for many years, this was a considerable improvement of Tipperary's status in her own and in outsider's minds.

We may reasonably call it a year of solid achievement and of some encouragement for 1980. Already the thoughts of hurling men – and women – are drawn to a June Sunday and, hopefully, Cork colours coming out the Stadium tunnel in a semi-final. By then the externals of the place should be embellished with a second stand and some tidy terracing. And if we win, the shining hour will really glow.

## MODEST START

The year began, as hurling years do, ahead of the calendar by a few months. It was early winter – the start of one to put a strain on both one's patience and one's heating oil – when a Tipp team travelled not very far across the borders into the homely field at Rathdowney. A casual glance would confirm that there was no big-time atmosphere. Receipts were taken in a biscuit tin which never came close to being filled. Laois entertained little idea of catching out Tipp on our debut in the lower section – The Camross players didn't field because they had a game with the Kilkenny champions coming up. We won by a hatful of points and had our maiden voyage in the backwaters safely over. The game was no great use to selectors as trial material. Such names as Jim Guilfoyle, Kevin O'Connor and Seamus Fox caught the eye among newcomers; only O'Connor lasted all the way into the championship fifteen. Brendan Kenny was closely watched, too, at Rathdowney – by a visitor from Britain who came especially to take a good look at the Borrisoleigh forward, and used that look to help get him suspended later on a charge of playing illegally across the Irish Sea.

The lower division was never going to be a problem for Tipp

or fellow-casualties Cork; the only question was the one-two order of finish in the table. Tipp put in an early claim to first place by going south in February and winning – a result that helped to stoke up anticipation of the championship. Some prominent shortages like Ray Cummins, Doherty and O'Leary only added to the furious debating; but nobody could deny that our players had shown fine character in the win. The play of Francis Loughnane against John Horgan had the critics wondering what would happen between them – and the whole fifteen – in summer conditions. Actually, the Tipp-Cork League game was the subject of a long saga – points awarded to Cork for a Tipp decision not to travel because of the Under-21 players on the panel; Tipp appealed to Central Council and an eventual, and sensible, re-fixture.

## FORMAL PRELIMINARIES

Nobody reached for bouquets for the selectors simply because they chose a team capable of qualifying for the quarter-final; nor would the mentors have looked for any. These preliminaries were only the formalities before serious business. The selectors from the start won approval for being patently earnest and thorough and getting the same qualities across to their men. Both men and mentors, to say nothing of followers, next came to a day that all but wrecked the entire enterprise – and called in serious question our ability. Not in years has a Tipp team had as bad a half-hour as we saw at Nowlan Park against Offaly. At the end of a staggering spell of lead-losing, the opposition drew the game with a Kirwan free – and we came home quite shaken at giving away four goals in the second half.

The Croke Park replay looked dangerous enough in pros-



Tipperary Senior Hurling Team, Munster Championship, versus Cork in Park Ui Caoimh:–

*BACK ROW (Left to Right) — J. Keogh, S. Stapleton, P. Fitzelle, P. McLoughney, N. O'Dwyer, E. O'Shea, M. Doyle, S. Power.*

*FRONT ROW (Left to Right) — S. Bourke, K. O'Connor, T. O'Connor, P. Williams, P. Queally, J. Williams, F. Loughnane.*

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*League Final (versus Galway) at Gaelic Grounds, Limerick.*

pect, but as it happened there was no second slip-up. There were, however, some disquieting side-effects – O'Neill was sent off and got two months; Grace got a severe finger injury during the 1-18 to 0-10 victory.

For the semi-final with Clare we left out such defensive trialists as Paddy Burke and Jim Guilfoyle, brought back Tadhg O'Connor to left corner, promoted Michael Doyle to midfield – and won! If there was luck attached to it, we did not blush too much – not having enjoyed any in a long time. Leaders by five points with the wind Tipp were rocked by two goals that had origins in back and goalie errors. Twice led, the day was saved dramatically. Tommy Butler, on as a sub, levelled with a goal; Queally wiped out renewed arrears of two points with an absolutely vital goal from a William's pass. Clare could hardly credit it, going home without their League title. The courage of the bandaged Noel O'Dwyer and the instant impact of young Gerry Stapleton of the same club were heartening things for Tipp.

## **A FINAL TRIUMPH**

So to the League Final. Galway had beaten us in it back in 1975; they had ruined our Under-21 ambitions the previous October; in brief, they were favourites. But it was Tipp's day, all the way. By the scarcely credible margin of 3-15 to 0-8, Tipp won her first League since 1968 and did herself lots of good, financial as well as prestige-wise. With O'Neill still out of bounds the forward vacancy went to Seamus Power of Boherlahan, making a come-back. Galway failed while Tipp succeeded; the Connachtmen fell away badly through the second half, never getting in a blow that counted. At midfield Connolly and Mahon got nowhere against the youngsters Doyle and Stapleton. Jim Kehoe, roving from full-forward, hit a stream of great points but limped off after delivering the last of them, to be unfit up to the Cork match.

Winning the League was a real positive thing, but the satisfaction did not obscure the size of the coming task – going to Cork to challenge the triple champions at Pairc Ui Chaoimh. The decision to go there at all was much argued. Cork offered a home-and-away deal. After previously deciding for neutral Limerick, Co. Board reversed itself and accepted the offer. At that time it was thought that Semple Stadium would be unable to cope with the crowd expected. Had we known that the development project would not be started till five weeks later,

then Cork could have been asked to travel for the first leg of the agreement.

## **THE BIG DAY**

At any rate an overcast Sunday in June saw a huge crowd at the Pairc for the day of days. O'Neill was just back from suspension and on the brink of ordination. His name figures largely in retrospect. So do various theories as to how Tipp might have won. To be candid, Cork had play enough to deserve victory. John Fenton ran riot at midfield, raining balls to the square or pointing direct; our green youths at midfield met an occasion too demanding on composure. Had it not been for a truly admirable display by goalie McLoughney and five of his starting defence – Keogh mastering Cummins to blunt most of the offensive edge, Williams, Tadhg O'Connor, Fitzelle and O'Dwyer supporting well – we could have got a sound beating. People still argue that John Grace, an effective sub for Kevin O'Connor, should have been put instead into the troubled midfield. Also that forward changes were too belated – Doherty starring on the Cork square. Eventually Kehoe and Butler came on for Power and Doyle. Loughnane could come nowhere near his winter form on Horgan. Queally was another to achieve little. O'Neill gave us a slim chance of salvation when he beat Coleman. McLoughney gave us our very last opportunity of a draw as the Cork thousands whistled to encourage Noel Dalton to blow a closure – a ref who was heavily faulted in Tipp for two or three cheap frees to Cork and points to Charlie McCarthy. The Shannon Rovers goalie stopped brilliantly from O'Donoghue, cleared hugely and set up the forward move that brought possession to Pat O'Neill on the right. He struck promptly, perhaps too promptly – and drove to the right of Coleman's posts at the Blackrock end. He was sorry indeed and quite unlucky – and we all had sympathy for the slim Cappawhite lad. But there it was, another defeat, another year to wait. Cork, as the world knows, repeated their 1975 loss to Galway, who failed against a Kilkenny side who ended the year with a bonus All-Ireland. So we now await the efforts of two sets of builders – the steel and concrete men of Duggans at work in the Stadium, and the team-seeking quintet who have charge of Tipp's fortunes in 1980. May they both combine to produce a June day when both the field and the county look well. ■

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THÁRLA FORBAIRT spéisiúil i gCumann Lúthchleas Gael breis is bliain ó shoin nuair a bunaíodh Coiste Na Gaeilge faoi chaothaoirleacht Níochlás Mac Craith ó Roinn Ó gCuanach. Ag feáchaint ar ainmeacha an Choiste Náisiúnta is léir go bhfuil ceannas fiúntach air. Comh maith le Níochlás Mac Craith tá Seán Ó Laoire ó bhuan fhoireann na hÁrd Oifige, a ghníomhaíonn mar rúnaí, maraon le Pádraic Tyers ó Choláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh, Seán Ó Donagáin ó Chomhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge, Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh ar a bhfuil clú agus cáil air mar craoltóir, Ciarán Ó Feinneadha an ball is óige, ó Choiste Gnótha de Chonradh na Gaeilge, Seamus Ó Riain as Muine Gall, iar uachtarán C.L.G., Aodhán Mac Gabhann agus Diarmuid Ó Doibhlín. Sé príomh aidhm an choiste ná an Ghaeilge a chur in úsáid tríd an eagraíocht. Dár ndoigh tá sé mar pholasaí ag an nGluaiseacht ó thús ná an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn ach ní mar a síltear a bítear. Pé scéal é tá buntáiste amháin ag an gcoiste seo nach raibh ag an eagraíocht cheana, sé sin airgead. I mbliana tá Bórd na Gaeilge (comhlucht fó-stáit nua atá bunaithe anois chun cabhrú le leathnú na Gaeilge i ngach réimse den saol comhaimseartha) ag tabhairt tacaíocht airgid £6000 do Chumann Lúthchleas Gael d'fhonn tionscnaimh ar úsáid na Gaeilge a chur i bhfeidhm. Dár ndoigh beidh C.L.G. ag caitheamh punt ar phúnt don deontas seo comh maith, rud a léiríonn go bhfuiltear chun £12000 a chaitheamh ar úsáid na Gaeilge a leathnú roimh deireadh na bliana seo.

Bhuel tá toradh le feiscint cheana féin, mar dob é an chéad rud a mhol an Coiste Náisiúnta ná Oifigeach na Gaeilge a thogha i ngach contae sa tír, agus tá san déanta nach mór. Ag seiminéar a reachtáil an Coiste Náisiúnta i gColáiste Mhuire i mBlath Cliath le déanaí bhí formhór na hoifigí i lathair, agus deineadh plé fada ar chonas is féidir an Ghaeilge a chur á labhairt, ag imeachtaí an eagrais. Bhí cuid des na hoifigí ag ceapadh gur chóir ranganna Ghaeilge a eagrú, cuid eile ag cur béime ar atmaisféar Gaelach a chruthú, a bheadh cabrach do labhairt na teangan, (mar shampla bronnadh an fháinne, nó oiche Gaelach a reachtáil) agus cuid eile a rá gur chóir breis úsáide a bhaint as an comórtas Scór.

Maidir le Co, Thiobraid Arann, tá seiminéar á reachtáil i mí Eanáir agus tá cuireadh tugtha do theachta ó gach club

sa chontae. Ag an seiminéar seo beidh plé agus caidreamh againn ar chonas is féidir linn ceist na Gaeilge a fheabhsú sa chontae. Bí cinnte de rud amháin, ní bheidh muid ag fógaírt aon rud mór nua, mar tá an oiread san de mhion rudaí le déanamh nach gá go fóill bheith ag smaoinéamh ar aon rud as an gná. Cuirfear an béim ar labhairt na teanga – mar a dúirt Máire Ó Néill an taisteoir le déanaí ar 'Irom agus Éadrom 'there is no such thing as bad Irish'. Beimid ag plé slite chun daoine a mhealladh chun chainte, slite chun 'de-freezing' a dhéanamh ar an méid Gaeilge atá i dtaisce, ag na mílte daoine sa chontae fiú, slite chun daoine a chur ar a suaimhneas ag labhairt na Gaeilge.

Séard atá á mholadh agam mar Oifigeach na Gaeilge ná duine a bheith roghnaithe ag gach club mar teaghmálaí, eadar mé féin agus an club. Tá buntáistí breise ag clubanna le aras acu féin, mar tugann sé deis dóibh íomhá fábhach a chruthú. Mar shampla i nDúrlas Éile beifear ag súil le fógraíocht i nGaeilge ar na fallaí 7rl. nuair a tógfar an staid nua.

Is iomaí hallaí agus páirceanna faoi úinéireacht C.L.G. gan focal Gaeilge le feiscint, agus cártaí ballraíochta fiú. Ní toisc go bhfuil aon cur i gcoinnibh ann sa chás seo ach go bhfuil daoine fuar-chúiseach is mó cúis leis. Seo cuid des na fadhbanna a bheimid ag iarraidh a shárú. Má tá moladh ar bith agat, chun úsáid na Gaeilge a fheabhsú bheinn buíoch díot ach scéal a chur chugam. Níl aon dabht ach go bhfuil an dea thoil ann ar bhárr na heagraíochta, ach ní leor san. Tá dáiríreacht an Choiste Náisiúnta léirithe cheana féin, is ar obair na gclub a bhraitheann sé anois. ■



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# Long Wait Ends for Templederry

By James Gleeson

**I**N North Tipperary Intermediate Hurling the year 1979 belongs to Templederry. At 4.35 on Sunday 9th September Gerry Hogan the victorious captain walked across the sod of McDonagh Park, Nenagh, amid delirious players and spectators alike to collect the Fr. Hewitt Cup from Mr. Jim Donnellan after an absence of 48 years. As the congratulations and celebrations went on into the early hours of Monday morning one could not help but think that this was a great year for Templederry amid a great decade in hurling. Victory has come at a time when a new spirit has entered the local hurling scene. It has also come at a time when a new well-equipped modern community centre is being built in the parish, among other things, to help spread and foster our national games of hurling, football and handball.

Pitches were still in the grip of a late winter when Templederry had their first outing on Sunday 15th April in Nenagh. Our old rivals Ballina provided the opposition. Our lads mastered the terrible conditions very quickly and ran out easy winners by 5-7 to 0-4. Michael Murphy, Buddy Harrington and Gerry McGrath were in particularly good form that day.

The team was: Tom Ryan, Pat Gleeson, Tony Gleeson, Buddy Harrington, Michael Stapleton, Tom McLoughney, Gerry Haugh, Gerry McGrath, Michael Harrington, Gerry Hogan, Michael Ryan, Michael Murphy, Kieran Kennedy, Ned Purcell and Liam Ryan.

Portroe provided the next opposition in Nenagh on the 29th

April. The day was nice even though the field was soft. Our team won the toss and elected to play with the wind. However at half time we were only leading by 1 point and things looked bad for the second half. With some excellent work by Michael Ryan, Liam Ryan and Gerry Hogan in the second half Templederry won by 3 points. They learned that day that Portroe were very skillful and very fast.

Saturday, May 19th was the date of our next outing. We were short some of our regular players against our rivals of recent years Ballinahinch. Nonetheless they put up a heartwarming display and players such as Tim McLoughney, Matthew Gleeson and Michael Stapleton caught the eye. After a clean and sporting game the men in green and white ran out easy winners by 8 points.

The team was Tom Ryan, Buddy Harrington, Tim McLoughney, Pat Gleeson, Ml. Stapleton, Tom McLoughney, Michael Harrington, Michael Murphy, James O'Leary, Matthew Gleeson, Michael Ryan, Gerry Hogan, Liam Ryan, Pat Hogan, Gerry McGrath. Subs: K. Kennedy, James Murray.

Templederry now had 6 points from 3 games and were in a very commanding position in the table. The next match was against Kilruane McDonaghs on the 16th June. Our lads played very badly that day and were completely routed by a well drilled McDonaghs side. The score Kilruane McDonaghs 3-8, Templederry 0-8. The team was: Tom Ryan, Tim McLoughney, Tony Gleeson, Buddy Harrington, Michael Stapleton, Tom McLoughney, Gerry Hough, Michael Murphy, Gerry McGrath, Matthew Gleeson, Michael Ryan, Gerry Hogan, Pat Hogan, Pat Gleeson, Liam Ryan. Subs: James Murray, Gerry Ryan.

The scoreline above of 3-8 to 0-8 shows how complacent our lads had become now that they were sure of qualifying. At this stage Liam Devaney, a former Tipperary hurler and holder of



*Templederry, North Tipp Intermediate Champions 1979*

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five All-Ireland Senior medals, arrived on the scene. Great credit is due to him not only for bringing his vast knowledge of hurling skill and technique to the service of the players but also for instilling a spirit of comradeship, urgency and unity into the team. Through his unselfish devotion and rigorous but satisfying training sessions, he brought new hope back into the team. I think it is fitting at this stage also to thank the selectors, masseurs and team officials whose unceasing interest, help and encouragement made Liam Devaney's job all the easier.

The next match was played against Kiladangan on July 8th, in Toomevara, the same day as the Munster Final. This turned out to be a very tough uncompromising match. Tragically Michael Murphy, one of our key players was knocked out in that game. He seemed to have been the only player doing well for Templederry. Our lads did improve when he went off and won by 5 points. Sadly Michael had to miss most of the remaining matches in the championship. However he is now fit again and congratulations are due to him and Michael Stapleton for picking up an All-Ireland U-21 Hurling medal each for the Premier county.

Templederry next faced Ballinahinch in the semi-final in Nenagh on Sunday August 19th. The men in blue dearly wanted to win this one to avenge defeats of earlier this year and last year, but it was not to be. Right from the first whistle it was an epic tussle with fortunes evenly divided. At half time the lads in green were down by 2 points. A terrier like effort by Terence Ryan ten minutes into the second half brought the lead to Templederry for the first time. After this the lead changed hands five times. Attack after attack by Ballinahinch was broken up by the rock solid Templederry defence. The long clearances by Gerry Hough, Tom McLoughney and Michael Harrington were always a threat to the losers. It was from these clearances that Terry Ryan got the chance to score the two winning points and so put Templederry into the final for the second year in a row.

The score was Templederry 1-12, Ballinahinch 2-7. The team was: Tom Ryan, Pat Gleeson, Tony Gleeson, Buddy Harrington, Gerry Hough, Tom McLoughney, Michael Harrington, Michael Ryan, Gerry Hogan, Gerry Ryan, Gerry McGrath, Michael Stapleton, Sean Ryan, Liam Ryan, Matthew Gleeson. Subs: Terence Ryan, Jim Murray.

Meanwhile Portroe beat Kilruane for the other final spot.

The parish of Templederry emptied on Sunday afternoon, September 9th to witness a memorable hour's hurling with a nail-biting heart-stopping finish, staged by the men in green and white to lift the Intermediate trophy for the second time. The local team started off well with points by M. Stapleton, L. Ryan and M. Harrington. A goal by M. Stapleton had Templederry in the lead 1-3 to 0-2 after eight minutes. Portroe now came more into the game and only trailed by 2 points at half time 1-7 to 1-5. The Shannonsiders began a recovery job shortly after half time and in the 17th minute they took the lead by one point. This lead would have been more but for excellent work of Tom Ryan in the goal, the tenacious work of Pat Gleeson, Tom McLoughney, Gerry Hough and Michael Harrington in the defence the sheer grit and determination of Gerry Ryan, Michael Ryan, Sean Murphy and Terry Ryan. However, the trophy looked like going to the banks of the Shannon when a carefully orchestrated move brought M. Stapleton into the attack. In one blinding dash of skill and speed, he passed two men and struck the ball superbly into the top corner of the Portroe net to put Templederry back into the lead. Further points by Stapleton and Liam Ryan left them clear winners by four points.

Scorers for Templederry were: Ml. Stapleton 2-7; L. Ryan 0-3; Ml. Harrington 0-1.

The team was: Tom Ryan, Pat Gleeson, Tony Gleeson, Buddy Harrington, Gerry Hough, Tom McLoughney, Ml. Stapleton, Gerry McGrath, Michael Harrington, Gerry Hogan, Michael Ryan, Gerry Ryan, Sean Murphy, Liam Ryan, Matt Gleeson. Subs: Terry Ryan, Jim Murray.

And so a decade that began with a Junior championship victory and included two more Junior trophies and a memorable under 21 title in 1977 ended in a blaze of glory for the hurlers of Templederry. It is good to relate that four men who played in the 1970 final Tom Ryan, James O'Leary, Tim McLoughney and Tony Gleeson gave active service throughout this year and long may they continue to do so.

A special tribute is also due to the Templederry G.A.A. club's chairman, Mr. Dan Gleeson, whose unselfish duty and service kept the flame flickering when it looked like dying out and then through hard work enthusiastic leadership and undying allegiance brought the club to the heights it has now reached. Let's hope his chairmanship continues into the '80s ■



*Templederry Under-12 Section 2 winners. First ever Juvenile Competition win for the club.*



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# The Winning of the Under-21



County Tipperary Under-21 All-Ireland Champions

*BACK ROW: J. Sheedy, J. Ryan, B. Heffernan, P. Power, E. Hogan, V. Mullins, E. O'Shea, J. O'Dwyer, T. Slattery, J. Ryan, P. Loughnane.*

*MIDDLE ROW: D. O'Connell, P. Ryan, M. Murphy, B. Mannion, G. Stapleton, M. Doyle (Capt.), T. Grogan, Pat Fox, G. O'Connor.*

*FRONT ROW: P. Looby, M. McGrath, M. Stapleton, C. Bonner, R. Coffey, T. Floyd, J. Stone.*

**A** TIPPERARYMAN being presented with an All-Ireland trophy has been an all-too-rare sight in the decade just petering out. In all only three experienced the honour, **Tadhg O'Connor** with the seniors in '71, his fellow Roscrea-man, **Joe Hogan**, leading the minors in '76, and last, but by no means least, **Michael Doyle**, our under 21 hurling captain, who received the **Croke trophy** from former Kilkenny great, **Paddy Buggy**, at Portlaoise in September.

From a Tipperary point of view, it was a nice way to end the decade. The success of the under 21s, to a degree wiped out the many disappointments of a frustrating decade, and left us with the promise of better things to come in the eighties, particularly when the triumph is viewed in the light of the National League victory also.

With so many of the team which lost to Galway in a replay last year, Tipperary success over the same opposition this autumn was not unexpected. Vincent Mullins, Purdy Loughnane, Joe O'Dwyer, Gerry Stapleton, Michael Doyle, Eamon O'Shea, and Tommy Grogan started against Galway in that disappointing replay last year, and the substitutes included Michael Murphy, Enda Hogan, Tony Slattery and John Stone.

This group formed the backbone for this year's team, and the fact that players like John Stone and Pat "Flowery" Ryan could not get their place for the final indicated the strength of the panel.

## A NEEDED WIN

Tipperary needed this victory badly. Twice previously the title had come our way, in 1964 when we beat Wexford, and in 1967, when Dublin were defeated, but on both these occasions, Tipperary hurling was on the crest of the wave, the '64 success coming in the middle of that great spell between '61

*By Michael Dundon*

and '65 when four senior All-Irelands were won, and the '67 triumph, coming at a time when Tipperary was still the county to beat to win the All-Ireland.

The early wins over Limerick and Clare showed lots of the precision, fluency and fire that characterised last year's campaign, and we were very confident of taking Cork in the Munster final. This we did, but the display against a rather moderate Leaside combination, raised doubts about the ability of the team. The selectors too were not at all happy about some positions, but the All-Ireland semi-final against Antrim, did not help their deliberations, the quality of the opposition offered by Antrim not being of the sort to base a worthwhile assessment of players.

Galway's win over Wexford augured well for their chances of retaining the title, but the events of Portlaoise are now history, Tipperary won with reasonable ease in the finish, having held Galway to level terms facing the breeze, and absorbed a brief rally by them midway through the second half.

The deciding factor in Tipperary's favour was their ability to take a score, a department in which Galway laboured, too often in vain.

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# LOUGHMORE/CASTLEINEY ADD TO REMARKABLE RECORD

AS WE APPROACH THE END of yet another year the time has come for many clubs in the County to outline and review the happenings of the past year. For one such club Loughmore/Castleiney it has been a year of remarkable achievements.

The facts speak for themselves. Divisional and County Champions in Senior Football, Divisional and County Minor Hurling Champions, and Divisional and County Minor Football Champions and Divisional Under-21 Hurling Champions. Certainly if a prize were offered for consistency and all-round ability in hurling and football in the county high on the

By JOHN GUITON  
"Tipperary Star"

list of contenders would be the Loughmore/Castleiney club.

With great respect and admiration for the stalwarts of yesteryear the real success story of the Loughmore/Castleiney

club goes back to the early seventies when the dedication and attention of their committees to juvenile affairs began to reap its rewards. Prior to the seventies the Loughmore/Castleiney club have been to the forefront in Gaelic Football affairs. Since then they have not alone figured prominently on the big ball scene but have developed themselves in underage competition into a really formidable hurling force in the County.

The record of the Loughmore/Castleiney club in underage competition is well-known and since 1970 no less than eighteen county championships have been won from the Under-21 grade down. The club rose to prominence in underage competition in 1974 when they captured the Mid title in minor hurling in a tension-packed exciting encounter with Holycross/Ballycahill. Though they subsequently lost in the county final of the same year they were nonetheless back again the following year with typical spirit and courage.

In the last six years they have appeared in six county finals having made four successive appearances. So far they have only managed two successes. They failed to Eire Óg, Nenagh, in 1977 and '78 but this year they captured the county final at the expense of Knockavilla/Donaskeigh – a victory made all the more sweeter by reason of the fact that they accounted for bogey-team Eire Óg, Nenagh, in the semi-final.

It is interesting to note that the Under-12 football team, County



*Presentation of Minor Hurling Cup to Peter Brennan (Captain), Loughmore. Standing behind is Pat McGrath, "Man of the Match".*

## The winning of the Under-21 (continued)

### TIME TO ASSESS

Now, with the euphoria of the victory evaporated, is an opportune time to try to assess its value to the county. First and foremost, it was nice to be back in the winner's enclosure, and a championship at any level, was welcome. That it should be at the stepping stone to the senior grade, makes it all the more so, particularly as it confirmed the promise shown in the minor triumph of '76 by much the same squad of players.

In the broader context, one is inclined to ask how it will benefit us at senior level – how many of this team will make the grade at senior level.

Michael Doyle, Eamon O'Shea and Gerry Stapleton were in the senior team which lost to Cork in the Munster championship this year, while Pat Ryan was also involved in that squad. Obviously, these are lads with a senior inter-county future, but one must caution against expecting too much from them at this level, too soon. Few players step into the county senior side without a few faltering steps, and as the old adage says – it's hard to put an old head on young shoulders. Clearly these players have the potential; they must be given the time to realise it.

### GRADUATES TO SENIOR

But what of the other members of the panel? How many of them are likely to make it to the top. In '64, such as Peter O'Sullivan, Mick Roche, Len Gaynor, Babs Keating, Francis Loughnane and Noel O'Gorman, graduated to the senior squad, while the '67 brigade produced future seniors in the persons of John Kelly, Tadgh O'Connor, Seamus Hogan, Jack Ryan, P. J. Ryan and John Flanagan.

This "batting average" suggests that less than half of the team is likely to reach the top, and with four already in the senior category, time will tell who else makes it. Purdy Loughnane has shown a lot of class in his hurling, and with experience probably tightening his defensive play, could adjust to the greater demands of senior inter-county hurling. Joe O'Dwyer has the steel and determination in his game that one likes to see, and experience will surely tidy up other aspects of his game. Michael Murphy has a flare for scoring, a rare commodity nowadays, and as he matures could play a big part in future Tipperary plans.

The confidence that this year's victory will generate could bring on other members of the squad, as no one will doubt the ability of all of those involved. In any case we look forward to seeing as many of this squad as possible in action in Croke Park on All-Ireland day again doing honour to the Blue and Gold. ■

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### LOUGHMORE-Castleiney Senior Football champions —

*BACK ROW (Left to Right) — Tom McGrath, John Treacy, Jimmy Sweeney, Eddie Webster, Martin Maher, Martin Kiely, Gerry Stapleton, S. Fogarty.*

*BACK ROW (Left to Right) — Pat McGrath, Tom Maher, Ml. Maher, Tom Ryan, Eamonn Brennan, Sean Kearney (Capt.), Ml. McGrath.*

Champions of 1973, form the nucleus of today's minor squad who have for the third year in succession captured county honours. They defeated Clonmel Commercials in this year's decider at Cashel. As these notes are penned the under-21 county hurling and football championships are unfinished and with the club already in the hurling semi-final there is indeed every room for optimism.

Of course the tremendous success in underage competitions in recent years can be attributed to the great commitment of these teenagers to both hurling and football in their parish despite the many counter-attractions of the modern world. It should of course be remembered that the "adults" of the club have not been standing idly by in recent times. The Loughmore/Castleiney senior footballers, for long the kingpins of football in the Mid Division disposed of a gallant Galtee Rovers in this County Final thus winning honours for the third time since 1973. The senior footballers have an unbroken run of success in the Mid Division going back to the early sixties and needless to say they owe their current run of success to the care taken of their underage squads down the years. In 1978 the club won the County Junior Football Title for the first time.

Looking back on the remarkable achievements of the club in the various hurling and football grades one cannot but be conscious of the behind-

the-scenes efficiency of club officials to ensure that players both young and old receive the proper coaching and the desired encouragement from everybody involved.

Many of the present young players of the club were of course fortunate to have received the necessary coaching in their schooldays particularly at the great hurling nursery, Templemore C.B.S. It is a tribute to the officers, committees and the various selectors, who have given so much of their spare time to the promotion of hurling and football in the parish of Loughmore/Castleiney.

The club in recent years has been well represented at Inter-County level, Sean Kearney and Eddie Webster have been regular members of the County Senior Football squad and both have played for Munster in Railway Cup Competition. Tom McGrath, Peter Brennan, Jim Maher, Pat Treacy and Pat McGrath, to mention but a few, have worn the county jersey in underage competition.

In keeping with tradition and the great Loughmore/Castleiney players of the past such as Jim Ryan of "Bloody Sunday" fame, Sean Ryan and Sean Mockler and the club can boast of versatile and talented players in the calibre of Tom Kiely, Gerry Stapleton, John Treacy, Michael McGrath, Eamonn Brennan, John Geehan, Martin Meagher and Tommy Sweeney.

It is virtually impossible to record all the Loughmore/Castleiney success story

but from this short article it is clearly evident that their recent unique achievements are due mainly to hard work, commitment, dedication, and the will to succeed.

For many 1979 proved successful, for others defeat was often their lot. The year 1980 brings new hopes and aspirations and the tremendous achievements and success of Loughmore/Castleiney should serve as an inspiration for all clubs in the county. ■

The record of the Loughmore/Castleiney club in underage competition in this decade:

**Under-21 Football** — 1970, 1974, 1976.

**Minor Football** — 1976, 1977, 1979.

**Under-16 Football** — 1977.

**Under-14 Football** — 1974, 1975 (Rural and Urban), 1976.

**Under-12 Football** — 1973.

**Minor Hurling** — 1976, 1979.

**Under-16 Hurling** — 1977.

**Under-14 Hurling** — 1975 (Urban and Rural), 1976.

### OFFICERS OF THE CLUB

Chairman, Pat Cullen; Secretary, Tom McGrath; Treasurer, Eddie Webster; Assistant Secretary, Eamonn Brennan; President, Fr. J. J. O'Rourke, C.C.; Vice-Presidents, Fr. J. C. Ryan, P.P., and Bill Ryan; Vice-Chairman, Sean Mockler and Bobby Webster. ■



*Loughmore Castleiney County Minor Football Champions 1979.*

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# Communications and the PRO

## The Office of PRO

THERE IS A NAGGING reluctance in many G.A.A. circles to the appointment of a PRO. The county PRO is now an officer of the county committee because of general rule 34. I have heard the opinion voiced that it is not right that the PRO's vote should be the same as that of the Chairman or Treasurer. One distrusting voice also said that these new officers – Youth Officer, Oifigeach Gaeilge, PRO – can now swing a vote at county committee level. This view contains an extraordinary assumption that these people will have a common purpose to vote against the good interests of the committee. It also assumes that the established officers have a monopoly of wisdom and they and only they know what is right. A further obstacle to the PRO is that he will be the spokesman for the committee and that he may talk himself and his committee into trouble. Believe me, I'm not raising phantom issues. In my travels around the country at different meetings I have heard these opinions voiced.

### QUALITIES OF PRO

Who is the most important officer of a committee? Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer? Each task calls for different talents but each one, in my view, needs common-sense and ability. Have we never heard of a chairman who was inefficient? of a secretary who made mistakes? Maybe we haven't but that is because we took great care in their appointment. We should take the same care before we elect any officer – including the PRO. The theory behind these new officers is that a clear area of work is identified and that to elect a person to look after that area is the best way to get it done. My conviction is that if we get someone with common-sense and flair for what is involved, he can be a very important officer of the committee.

### COMMUNICATIONS IN G.A.A.

I'm talking in this article about the county PRO. The club PRO would require another article. The whole purpose of the office is to project the image of the county through communications. We should be concerned about the image of our association on our members, on youth and on people outside the association. At a communications seminar in 1976 Mick Dunne made the following statement, "The welfare of Gaelic Games is something that I, and the other journalists who cover them regularly, have been devoted to for many years. I hope you'll accept that fact. I'm not here to offend you but, after covering Gaelic games for 25 years, I'm convinced that about 90 per cent of the people in the G.A.A. haven't a clue about communications – proper communications, that is." Harsh words certainly and I think Mick would accept the



*Fr. Seamus Gardiner*

position has improved since then. We often feel in the association that we have a perfect communication system. The county board delegate reports back to his divisional board. From there the club delegate reports back to his club and so information is diffused. You can see the system creaking already. How many club delegates attend the divisional board meeting? How many clubs hold regular meetings? How many attend the meetings when held? A half column in a provincial paper sent in by the PRO is much more effective and reaches a much wider audience.

### COVERAGE IN MEDIA

Do you want to read about your native county in the national papers? Yes, I

know, that coming up to a Tipp.-Cork clash, you will read too much, maybe.

Let the reporters look for the information, you say, that's why they are there. Maybe, but if they are being provided with information from many other sources, would you seek it out if you were a reporter? Undoubtedly the best county PRO in the G.A.A. has been Paddy Flanagan of Westmeath. How many times have you seen Westmeath mentioned in the national papers? With no disrespect to them, they are one of the less successful counties, using inter-county success as a criterion. Yet week after week they have their regular spot.

Accident? Love of Westmeath by the national writers? No way – but hard work by Paddy. "I send a copy of my circular to each G.A.A. correspondent at national or local level. Also, apart from scheduled games, I send anything that might be of interest – a worthwhile paragraph. They may not use all or any of the material – they are governed by space or time and this is where patience and perseverance come into it. I have found, that contrary to often expressed opinion, the men in the media are only too willing to help and I am prepared to do all I can to make their job easier for them and to benefit my county". These are Paddy's own comments and I would regard them as a gospel for a PRO. Coming into the same category as Paddy is Padraic Duffy of Monaghan. If any PRO wishes to find out how to be a success, he should ask one of these and be prepared for a shock at the amount of work they do.

### PUBLICISING OURSELVES

What does the G.A.A. do with all its money? You, as a G.A.A. member will say that we publish a balance sheet every year, anyone can read it. Of course but how many do read it? How many can read it? A readable break-down in layman's language might be prepared for the provincial papers within the county.

We are proud and boast of the enormous amount of involvement the G.A.A. has with youth. We believe it and rightly so but why not put figures on it? How many juvenile teams? How many youngsters does that involve? The volume of work on the few in most clubs, especially at juvenile level, is enormous. They cannot do this indefinitely. Yet many, parents included, take this for granted. Can we persuade others to come and give a hand? The image of what we are doing is all-important. It's great to be doing it but let's publicise what we are doing especially in a society which is becoming increasingly health and fitness conscious.

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# Tiobrad Árann Abu 1930

AFTER TIPPERARY'S historic "Treble Crown" victories in 1930, Senior, Junior and Minor, the chairman of the County Board at the time, Very Rev. John J. Meagher, offered a prize for a ballad to celebrate the occasion. He was very pleased that almost fifty entries were submitted, coming from all over the county. The adjudicators awarded the prize to Mr. Tom Keating, N.T., Cloneen, for the following ballad: Air: Kelly of Killann.

*Tiobrad Árann abu, Tiobrad Árann abu,  
That's our watchword and war-cry for aye;  
For Tipperary's brave men from the hill and the glen,  
Are the champions of Ireland today.  
Fling the news on the breeze, let it ring o'er the seas,  
On the moorland and wild mountain blue;  
How the boys on the field forced all rivals to yield,  
With the cry: "Tiobrad Árann Abu".*

## Chorus

*Then hurrah boys, hurrah, 'tis our glory today,  
How the seniors, and brave minors too,  
Showed the juniors the way to win fame in the fray,  
With the cry: "Tiobrad Árann Abu".*

*In the land of our birth — purest gem of the earth —  
Writ in bright flashing gold of the dawn,  
Is Tipperary's fair name, and her far-flowing fame  
In the swing of the Irish caman.  
Let the bright blue and gold of our banner unfold,  
And we'll swear to be loyal and true,  
To the men of renown who won victory's crown,  
With the cry: "Tiobrad Árann Abu".*

## Chorus

*"Tiobrad Árann Abu," let it ring loud and true,  
Till it shakes heather-crowned Sliabh-na-mBan;  
For no power could e'er smash Tipperary's swift dash,  
With the clash of the ash sweeping on.  
While of victory we boast, let us now drink a toast,  
To the brave men, the tried and the true;  
Who so oft in the past nailed our flag to the mast,  
With the cry: "Tiobrad Árann Abu".*

## Chorus

*In the game of the Gael may our men never fail,  
To be loyal to Eire's fair name;  
May they ever march on like the men who are gone,  
True to gallant Tipp'rarry's great fame.  
Yes, with Ireland's caman, and the speed of the fawn,  
And the blood of the Gael thro' and thro'  
Feeling proud of the past, they will fight to the last,  
With the cry: "Tiobrad Árann Abu".*

(continued)

## PROGRAMMES, MAGAZINES

What kind of programmes are produced for home league games? Are they accurate? They can be very simple (4 pages) yet much very important information can be given on that back page. How many people, even committed followers, know that there are now three monthly G.A.A. magazines — Gaelic Sport, Gaelic Games and now the Gaelic World? Gaelic World is recognised officially by the association. Have you read it yet? Is it worth buying? Where do you get it within the county? Surely, the PRO has a role to play here? How many know of the Programme Collectors' club in Croke Park? What service does it offer?

## WORK FOR PRO

Forgive me if I've mentioned things already being done in the county. After all, I'm an exile and only comment on the situation which I've seen in all provinces in the last three years. The general attitude has been — there is not enough work for a PRO. The Secretary or Chairman can do it. I believe both these officers have more than enough to do

already and what I see the PRO doing would overload these men. There have been areas of tension in some counties because of overlapping of duties. Surely if officers are to work together, an agreement can be worked out about who does what. A chairman should inspire his fellow-officers to work as a team. Where men are reasonable, all things are possible.

## MEDIA SPACE

The clamour for space in the media is becoming more intense. Other sports are now claiming space in papers where traditionally there was no mention of them. If they are providing this information for the papers, they are doing so out of conviction of the value of their image. No matter how enormous our involvement is, with youth particularly, we should make the proper effort to have that recorded and publicised. Frankly, it amazes me at times to see the out-of-proportion coverage a particular event gets in the national or provincial papers. I always suspect and admire of course, the PR work involved.

## IMAGE THROUGH GAMES

We communicate our image most of

all by our games. On "Match of the Day" on a Saturday night a youngster now sees the expertly presented game. On Sunday they go to a local hurling or football game. They could find that game 20 minutes late, red togs, blue togs, socks of various colours. I know the comparison is unfair — one is big-time professional, the other is local amateur. But the image persists. How often our country teams too can be careless. It's not just for the Munster semi-final or the National League final that the effort must be made. They should be uniformly dressed at all times. The image presented can be sloppy, careless and inefficient. We can do better, of course we can, if we believe it's important.

## MAIN POINT

The main point I have been trying to make is that at this particular time we should be very concerned about our image and how we portray it. A good PRO with flair and ability can help in this task. One of the biggest needs in the association is workers at all levels. In my view, the only way we will attract people to work is to present to others this image of efficiency, of a body that is proud of itself and what it is doing. If we have a message to sell, let's go out and sell it.

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# A Golden Jubilee

IN 1980 WE CELEBRATE the Golden Jubilee of Tipperary's remarkable achievement in 1930, when all three All-Ireland hurling championships were won by the Premier county.

The score in the senior All-Ireland final was: Tipperary 2-7, Dublin 1-3.

The team was: Tom O'Meara, James O'Loughlin, Paul McKenna, Jim Langan, Tom Butler, Phil Purcell, Mick

Ryan, John Maher, Tommy Treacy, Tommy Leahy, Mick Cronin, Phil Cahill, Martin Kennedy, John Joe Callanan (Capt.), James Harvey (Capt.).

In the Junior final played in Waterford, Kilkenny were beaten 4-8 to 3-2.

The Junior team was: Willie Ryan, Tim Connolly, Mick McGann, Martin Browne, Tom Rainey, Dan Looby, Pat Furlong, Ned Wade, Jack Dwyer, Wm. Gorman, Sean Harrington, Mick Ryan,

Pat Harty, Tom Harty, Joe Fletcher (Capt.).

The Minors also beat Kilkenny at Croke Park. The score was: Tipperary 4-1, Kilkenny 2-1.

The team was: Gerald Heavey, Jack Russell (Capt.), Larry Burke, John Lanigan, John Semple, Joe Dunne, Wm. O'Neill, Pat Ryan, John Quinlan, Ned Maher, Ned Wade, Tim Harney, John Coffey, Jim Close, Jim Coffey.

## Treble Crown Victory, 1930

Tipperary, in 1930, achieved a feat never previously known in the history of the G.A.A. when they won the All-Ireland Hurling Championships in the senior, junior and minor grades. This remarkable photograph of the three teams was taken at Thurles Sportsfield.



**FRONT ROW:** P. Flanagan, J. Russell (Capt., Minor), Rev. J. J. Meagher, C.C.; His Grace Archbishop Harty, Rev. P. Fogarty, C.C.; J. Leahy, J. Coffey, J. Quinlan, T. Semple, W. Boland, W. O'Neill, Jack Gleeson.

**SECOND ROW:** Frank McGrath, Nenagh; Pat McGrath (Sec., Munster Council); P. Ryan, W. Kennedy, J. Dunne, J. Heaney, P. Ryan, E. Maher, T. Harney, John Semple, John Lanigan, J. Close, W. O'Gorman, M. Maher (Tubberadora).

**THIRD ROW:** W. O'Gorman, E. Wade, T. Harty, Tim Connolly, M. Brown, M. McGann, W. Ryan, J. Fletcher, M. Ryan, P. Furlong.

**FOURTH ROW:** Rev. M. J. Lee, Thomas Butler, J. Harrington, T. Rainey, P. Harty (Capt., Juniors), J. Ryan, Tom Hayes, T. Power, M. Kennedy, M. Ryan, Jack Dwyer, J. Connolly.

**FIFTH ROW:** James Lanigan, M. F. Cronin, J. Heaney, Phil Purcell, J. J. Callinan (Capt., Seniors), Mick Ryan, John Maher, J. O'Loughlin, Dan Looby.

**LAST ROW:** Phil Cahill, James Harney, Thomas Treacy, T. Butler, Jack McKenna, Thomas Leahy, Jack Stapleton.



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# PADDY KENNY REMEMBERS

PADDY KENNY from Faugheen, Carrick-on-Suir could be described as a man with a million memories of happenings in the G.A.A. world, particularly in his native County since the early 1920's.

He made an immense contribution to the running of G.A.A. affairs in Tipperary during that period from 1920 onwards. He served as a member of the County Board for a long number of years and is in fact Trustee of the Board to the present day. He was Vice-Chairman of the South Board for a number of years and a member of its Appeals Committee. In 1933 he was picked as a selector for the County Junior Hurling Team and from then onwards up to a few years back he held positions as county hurling selector in minor, junior and senior hurling.

## EARLY INTEREST

When interviewed in his home in Faugheen recently Paddy recalls his early interest in Gaelic games and tells of the founding of his own club, the Carrick-on-Suir Hurling and Football Club more popularly known as Carrick Davins.

The man responsible for starting the club was Jerry Shelley who had won an All-Ireland with Tipperary in 1921. Early in 1922 he called a meeting of a number of people interested in the G.A.A., and they started the club as a Football Club. They entered in the Junior Football Championship and met Fethard in the first round. Paddy recalls, with a laugh, that Fethard had a number of players that day who had been in jail for a while during the War of Independence and they had been seniors going into jail and juniors coming out and were eligible to play against them. Naturally they proved too strong for the newcomers from Carrick and that ended the first year. They got to the final in 1923 and were beaten by Clerihan.

There was it appears an old tradition of hurling in Carrick and in 1923 the people in the club decided to enter a hurling team and to call the club the Carrick-on-Suir Hurling and Football Club. They entered a junior hurling team in 1924 and got to the final and were beaten by Clerihan. Around this time a local hurling league was started in Carrick and they had teams from the Well Road, Ballinagrana, a team from the Pill Road called the Ashtown Stars and the Greenside Rovers from which the Carrick Swans originated.

This league gave hurling a tremendous boost in Carrick. Carrick Swans affiliated in 1929 and you had St. Mollerans on the Carrickbeg side playing in the

Waterford Championship. This led to a situation where you had three above average hurling teams in the one town. This has lasted to the present day and Carrick are unique in hurling circles in that today they have three senior hurling teams. No town in Ireland of Carrick's size can boast of this and in fact many of the much bigger towns in the country are not promoting the game to the extent that Carrick-on-Suir are.

## ORIGINS

Paddy Kenny also gives us an interesting account of how the names Carrick Swan and Carrick Davins came about. The name Swan came about when their club got an old building for a club house. They proceeded to repair the old building and a plasterer was putting on slates on the roof. There was a vacant space left between slates and onlookers from the ground looking up remarked that it looked like the shape of a Swan. The name of the Swan stuck to the club from then on. Paddy says of course that there would be many who would disagree with this version. The Davin name caught on when a move was made early in the 1930's to unite the two teams. A number of meetings were held and there was agreement that both clubs would have to change their names if they united. It was proposed to call the new club the Carrick Davins in honour of Maurice Davin first President of the G.A.A. At the final meeting the Swan refused to unite and as a committee had been formed for the Davins they decided to go ahead as the Davins for the one year and even though they are officially the Carrick-on-Suir Hurling and Football Club the name the Davins stayed with them.

Paddy Kenny has the distinction of having played on the Tipperary Senior Football team on the last occasion that they beat Kerry in a Munster Championship game. This game was played in Tipperary Town in 1928 and Paddy playing at full forward for Tipperary scored 1-2 against no less a player than Joe Barrett, possibly one of Kerry's greatest ever full-backs. Paddy rattles off the team that played Kerry in that Munster semi-final as if it was yesterday. They had John Weston of Fethard in goal. Dick Mockler corner back, Mickey Barry full, Dick Heffernan of Clonmel corner, Jim Davies of Templetoohy half back, John O'Leary, Ardfinnan, centre, Ned Lonergan (Ard) half line, centre-field Tom Lee and Tom McCarthy, half-forward line of Danny Mullion wing, Connie Keane centre, and Tommy O'Keeffe, Clonmel, wing; full-forward line, Bill Barrett, Mullinahone, P. Kenny, Carrick, and Pat Arrigan, Carrick.

He could recall quite a number of the Kerry team of the day too and to name but a few, they had Joe Barrett at full back, Con Brosnan and Bob Stack at centrefield and John Joe Sheehy at centre forward. He discounted the story that the Kerry team went on a celebration the night before the game. The Tipp Town Urban Council took the Kerry team on a tour of the town and the Glen of Aherlow on the Saturday night and the story got around that they had been on a bit of a drinking spree, but Paddy says that most of the Kerry team did not drink and he would not believe in the rumour at all.

Tipp met Cork in the Munster Final that year and were beaten by two points. Paddy recalls a strange happening in the course of that game, something that he never saw happening before or since in a championship game. Tipp were leading by 1 point nearing the end of the first half and going well. Cork got a free and the ball was kicked into the Tipp full back line; one of the corner backs caught it and he shouted, hitting the ball off the ground, "Tis burst", Dr. Kearney who was playing for Cork just doubled on it and into the back of the net. The ball had burst, but Cork got the goal and Tipp never recovered from the shock of the setback.

## YEARS AS A SELECTOR

We talked about his years as a selector and he recalls one of his first trips to Thurles to pick a Junior Hurling team in 1933. He says, "I drove up an untaxed car in bad condition. We only crawled up and I was fairly vexed when it was suggested to me by a member of the selection committee that I should put forward a few names and they would consider them at a later meeting as some of the selection committee had not turned up." He says very forcibly, "I said to Canon Fogarty, who was Chairman, if it was him who had not turned up would ye take a few names and meet to select a team later. I said, I came up here to select a team and tis going to be done if I have to do it myself. He recalls Paddy Leahy, R.I.P., agreed with him and so the team was selected."

In those early years it was'n't too difficult for him as a selector as Carrick had the reputation of having some fine hurlers. To name but a few he mentioned Eddie Earle and Paddy Mahony, the Roches and Jimmy Cooney. As a minor selector he was in the picking of eight All-Ireland minor teams, surely a record? He recalls some great minors who never turned out any good afterwards. He admits to being in a few awkward situations in his years as a selector and to being very vexed at times. He says he never minded someone having a difference of opinion with him, but

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# Toomevara's Juvenile Triumphs



*Padraig McFloinn, President, Cumann Luthchleas Gael, and John Delaney (Capt.), Toomevara under-14 Feile na Gael team at Kilkenny.*

COUNTY BÓRD NAN-Óg Secretary, Liam McGrath, writing of Toomevara, County Under-12 Hurling Champions in 1977, said: "It was their first-ever juvenile title, and judging by their display, we will be hearing more from them." Prophetic words, indeed.

Now, two years later, 1979 has been a year of outstanding success for the same team in Under-14 grade hurling.

Their achievements are impressive – County Rural Champions, County Urban-Rural Champions, Runners-up in All-Ireland Division One Final of Feile na nGael and All-Ireland Community Games Champions.

During the year, in a five-month period, the team played a total of thirty two games, and at times it was feared that the energy of the boys was being heavily overtaxed. Admittedly, many games against weak opposition were won easily, but the fierce determination,

## Niall Williams

raw courage and character of the team was put to the test on several occasions before victory was achieved.

At the beginning of the year the goal was a County Championship, a target which called for dedication, commitment and discipline. The boys set about developing skills and hurling craft and building up team work. Great emphasis was placed on improving the basic skills and a set period of time was spent on skill work at training sessions. A large panel of players ensured keen competition for team places, and so a full attendance at training.

Having won their way easily through the early rounds of the North Divisional Championships, the boys then set their sights on representing Tipperary at Feile na nGael in Kilkenny. They reached the lofty heights of playing in an All-Ireland Final, but then it was feared that they might have reached their peak too early in the season. Indeed, the team dropped below its own high standard in subsequent games, but gradually reached high pitch again to achieve ultimate victory.

Old rivals, Kilruane McDonagh, stood sternly in the path to Divisional honours. In the Rural semi-final a draw resulted after a great game of fluctuating fortunes, but Toomevara won the replay convincingly. Borrisokane were beaten in the final. In the Urban-Rural final Toomevara again opposed Kilruane in an epic battle. The final ten minutes, of breath-taking intensity produced herculean hurling, and Toomevara just prevailed.

Moycarkey-Borris were the opponents in both county semi-finals and it required courage and determination to overcome those gallant hurlers. Knockavilla Kickhams provided the opposition in the County Rural final, but failed to prevent Toomevara from annexing their first-ever Under-14 title and the coveted Dr. Harty Shield. The boys were now more determined than ever to bring off the double by winning the Urban-Rural championship. In a memorable final, Emly fought gallantly, but were beaten by superior craft and strength. The final whistle was the signal for unforgettable scenes of enthusiasm as the Toomevara supporters acclaimed their conquering heroes.

*(continued)*

he could not stand anyone trying to ram something down your throat as he put it.

His proudest moments as far as his club was concerned was when they won the Co. Senior Hurling title and when Mick Roche and P. J. Ryan were selected to play for the county.

He describes P. J. Ryan as being the greatest hurler he ever saw. He never saw another hurler to get a ball away out of a tight situation as good as P. J. could. Jimmy Finn was another whom he had great admiration for. He describes him as being one of the greatest half backs of all time. The dedication of Theo English also impressed him deeply. Theo, he says, came onto the Tipp team at a late stage and kept his place a lot longer than most.

One could spend a week talking to Paddy Kenny about Carrick and its hurlers, his years on the County Board and as a County Selector. It would take quite a large book to record all the interesting happenings.

One thing comes across clearly about Paddy Kenny and that is that he was a strong minded personality in the G.A.A. and he brought his influence to bear on the particular positions he occupied to the advantage not only of his native Carrick and South Tipp but to the county in general.

His interest in the G.A.A. has not diminished over the years and he is as interested now in the fortunes of his club and county as he was thirty or forty years ago. Truly a great Gael. Tipperary and his native Carrick-on-Suir can be proud of him. ■

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## FEILE NA NGAEL

One of the highlights of the year was Féile na nGael. The boys were very eager to represent Tipperary and having beaten Templemore in the County Feile final, they set off hopefully for Kilkenny. Based in Callan, they beat their hosts in the first round. Here one must pay tribute to the wonderful generosity and warm hospitality of the people of Callan. St. Vincents, Dublin and Killimer, Galway provided strong opposition in subsequent games before victory was gained. Having exceeded all expectations Toomevara faced Glen Rovers, Cork in the final in Nowlan Park. In a classic game, giving their all, they were beaten by the Cork boys by one point. Bitterly disappointed, nevertheless they had done themselves and Tipperary proud and will have many happy memories of Feile na nGael in Callan and Kilkenny.

The season ended on a triumphant note with the winning of the All Ireland Community Games Final. Thus, a very busy year has ended with many honours brought about by the hard work of many people, the dedication, spirit and unfailing courage of the players, and the wonderful support of the people of the parish. Will more be heard of this talented team? ■



## MEMORIES OF FEILE NA NGAEL

I WILL ALWAYS remember Féile na nGael and our great weekend in Kilkenny. The Toomevara Under-14 team left the village of Toomevara – the home of hurling – on Friday, the 29th June and arrived in the host City of Kilkenny to a very welcoming reception. Every county in Ireland was represented in St. Kieran's College that evening which made it seem like an All-Ireland day. Each team was lined up behind their county and parish banners. They were also presented with a hurl and programme.

Then we were taken to Callan, the Host Club, who accommodated us for the weekend. Our team with our managers and trainers, Mr. Williams and Mr. Hassett, were taken to the homes of the local people. Some of our hosts were farmers. Some were Gardaí and some were teachers. We will always be grateful to the people of Callan who were so kind and hospitable to us.

On Saturday morning we played our first match in Callan against the host team, Callan, which we won easily. The pitch was very well presented and the team were friendly and gave us an enjoyable game. After the game the Callan Club presented us with a lovely tro-

By **JOHN DELANEY**  
(Toomevara Juvenile Captain)

phy in remembrance of our visit there. They also organised support for the rest of our games.

At 2 o'clock on that same day we travelled to Windgap to meet St. Vincent's the Dublin champions. Before the game we were introduced to the Director General of the G.A.A., Mr. Liam Mulvihill, and the former President, Mr. Con Murphy. Both teams were addressed by Mr. Mulvihill and he complimented them on their presentation for the game. The match started. It was hard, tough hurling from beginning to end. It was a draw at full-time and after playing 10 minutes aside extra time we won the game.

At seven o'clock on Saturday evening we went to Thomastown to play Kilimer in the semi-final. We started well and were leading by 10 points at half-time. Kilimer came back into the game in the second half and brought our score down to two points. Then we got back on top and scored two goals to win by 8 points.

The highlight of Féile na nGael was the massed parade of all teams through the streets of Kilkenny in glorious sunshine on Sunday morning after Mass.

The colour and excitement of the occasion left everyone speechless. There were 68 hurling teams and 32 camogie teams parading and keeping in step to the music of many bands.

The final between ourselves and Glen Rovers of Cork was timed for five o'clock on Sunday evening but it didn't take place until after six. We assembled in the dressing room at half five. There was fierce excitement and some of us were very tensed up. This was our biggest occasion – taking part in an All-Ireland final.

We had great support for this game as a big crowd travelled from our parish to support us. I think we didn't start as well in this game as in others but as time went on we settled down and hurled very well in the second half and at the final whistle we were one point down. We were very disappointed. We were presented with our runners-up medals by the President of the GAA, Mr. McFlynn.

I was very proud to captain this team and to represent Tipperary in the final. I would like to thank the members of the team for the great spirit which they played with during the year helping to bring so many trophies to the Parish. Also our school teachers, Mr. Williams and Mr. Hassett, who did so much to build this team. ■

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# SEAN TREACY'S: SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS OF WEST TIPPERARY

By BILL O'DONNELL



*Mr. George Ryan, Chairman of the West Board, presenting the O'Dwyer Cup to Christy O'Dwyer (Capt.) following Sean Treacy's victory over Cappawhite at Bansha on Sunday, August 5, 1979.*

**K**ILCOMMON, Holyford and Rearcross, (the last named known to residents in the shadow of lofty Mathais Sleé, "Rea") were for many years separate entities in the world of sport. Hurling teams from the areas mentioned could always be depended upon to give a good account of themselves against the best of opposition from whatever quarter. Kilcommon and Rea always competed in the championships in North Tipperary and in tournaments all over the place both before and after the historic meeting in Thurles. Indeed Kilcommon boasted ownership of a youth called Pat Hanley, who hit the then sliotar (about as big as a fair sized turnip) every inch of 58½ yards to win the champion hurling puck in 1887.

Holyford, we are told, formed a club in 1886, and following organisation of the Divisions, played for many years in the South. Disputes, common enough in the twenties and before, sent the team into oblivion, as far as championships were concerned, although they continued to play challenge games pretty often. Came the formation of the West Division in 1930 and a reorganisation of affairs by such as Jimmy Ryan, later to become secretary of the West Board, Jim Allis, Tom Butler and Jim Caplis, led to the entry of a Holyford-Glengarr selection in the new division where they have invariably participated, mostly as single entities, ever since.

Each area of this vast expanse of hilly lands, looked after its own, providing a field, procuring transport and collecting funds to keep things going. In the very early sixties, wise men, led by such as Dan Kennedy, M.C.C.; Denis Guinane, N.T.; Mick Caplis, T. J. O'Dwyer, Paddy and Eddie McLoughney, Mick Ryan (d), and Mick Ryan (w), called a meeting for Rea, the object of which was to explore ways and means of bringing about a fusion of the different interests. The parish schools had been for years competing, under the guidance of Denis

Guinane, in friendly rivalry and the meeting was unanimous in assenting to the amalgamation. For some time each area carried on as before. This was found to be somewhat impracticable so it was decided to name Kilcommon as headquarters.

The best from the three districts formed quite a useful fifteen that was welded into a formidable force by trainer Mick Ryan of Newport. Mick, many of us have reason to remember, was the peerless Timmy's (Goodboy) partner at midfield, when the great Limerick team of the thirties strode the national hurling scene like a colossus. Under the name Sean Treacy's, the immortal native who died in Dublin in 1920, they won Divisional titles in junior hurling in successive years. Their great moment came in 1966 when, following a series of fine victories, they smashed their way through to the county decider to win their first ever county championship that put them into the top echelon.

Their first essay into the higher ranks wasn't crowned with any great success when they went down before Eire Óg, eventual champions in the semi-final. For those lads however, hurling's blue wonder, was their goal and they bounced back again in 1968 to take back to the "Mother" their first Senior Hurling crown.

At crossroads, creamery and church gate for many a day, the story of how the crown was won was told and retold. Eddie "McLoughney" free that cut three points off Eire Óg's nine point lead nine minutes from time sparked off one helluva sustained rally, that had Eire Óg reeling to a two points defeat come the whistle.

The men from the hills had arrived and the history making fifteen were:- T. J. O'Dwyer, Phil Ryan (c), Mick Ryan (w), Paddy Ryan (c), Mick O'Dwyer, Mick Caplis, Billy Linehan, Paddy Moloughney, Din Ryan, Eddie Moloughney, Rev. Ned Ryan, Tom Ryan (s.c.), Donal Keane, John Quigley, John Keane, Mick Ryan of Newport was once again at the trainer's helm.

There followed 5 years of unrewarded hurling and this despite dedicated determination and participation in innumerable tournaments and challenges. Discipline was at times lax enough and disputes with the ruling authority did their cause little good.

Arravale Rovers and Lattin Cullen, areas more renowned for footballing prowess, respectively beat them in 1969 and '70 while 1971 saw them pull out of the championship following a bitter enough dispute with the Board.

In 1972 they went out before King Cormack power, in one of the Finest games ever seen on Goldens popular pitch. On that occasion they hurled through the opening half minus the services of inter-county player Dinny Ryan. To a tremendous cheer from the hill folk, he came on after half time and so inspired his colleagues, despite being in agony with a badly injured arm, that a ten point deficit was reduced to a couple come the full time blast.

In this game I should say we got a glimpse of the awesome power and determination of those lads who were scattered through the upper reaches.

Around about this time Father Christy O'Dwyer was sent to the parish as curate. Having worn the minor shirt and captured a West Division pennant, when playing with his native

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Arravale Rovers, his advent was hailed with enthusiasm throughout the parishes. He slotted into the full-back position to form, for many days to come, with the flaming haired long-striking Jim Nolan on his right and the indestructible Paddy Ryan on his left, an almost unbeatable last line of defence. 1973 had them back in the decider, this time against old friends, old foes Eire Óg, who had as helpers, under a gentleman's agreement, the Morrissey brothers Eddie and Josie from the Lattin Cullen club. Mercifully the heavy rain which had been falling since the evening before eased off before the game and, on a pitch that was like a skating rink, both teams served up a fine hour's hurling at the end of which Treacy's had survived by a matter of 3 points.

Riding the crest of a wave the club enlisted the help of Larry Keane of Thurles, who had won an All-Ireland medal with Tipperary in 1958. Under his able tutorship, the team went from strength to strength, to complete a two-in-a-row when they had a most convincing victory over a very good Golden-Kilfeacle side in Dundrum. Thoughts of a magical three-in-a-row began to gather momentum. To that end the club entered the Galtee Rovers senior hurling tournament, defeating Mount Sion after a replay and going down narrowly to Bennets Bridge, Kilkenny kingpins at the time, in the semi-final.

Their star certainly was in the ascendant and an absorbing ambition appeared about to be realised. They reckoned however, without the menace that was Cashel King Cormacks looming on the horizon. Brother Michael Vincent O'Grady had done wonders with the youth of the ancient city and had coached the minors, hurling and football teams, to an unprecedented county championship double.

He had "laid his hand on" and played with the senior side that had convincingly won its way to the decider. The teams met on a glorious August evening at Clonoulty's well-kept, well-arranged venue. In the presence of a record crowd Treacy's dream went sky-high as the youthful Cashel blades outran and outgunned them all over the pitch.

All kinds of everything, chief among them an injury to Dinny Ryan, kept them from qualifying in 1976. The gloom however, lifted considerably towards the close of the year, when the news broke, that the club had persuaded Ted

McCorack of Kilcommon Cross to sell them the seven acres of land across the road from his residence. The price £7,000 looked an awful lot of money at the time but the people of the parish, mindful of the debt they had to the club, rallied round, and inside a year the field became club property. Development has been going on for the past 2 years and at present, the pitch boasts of dressing rooms, etc., second to none.

Stung by the insult to their playing pride, the committee set about recovering prestige. A general overhaul in organisation went on, plans were laid for the coming playing season and the services of a coach were sought. Ready made and willing to act was a man from nearby Nenagh.

He was none other than Donie Nealon, present secretary of the Munster Council and holder of 5 All-Ireland medals. Home from Dublin, where he had been starring on the metropolitan and Leinster Railway Cup teams, came Pat Quigley to lend a hand. Dinny Ryan came good again. All systems were at "go" and the team stormed through to the final in which Kickhams provided the opposition. Thunder, lightning and heavy showers were the order of the day. Things turned out so badly that the Board officers were forced to postpone the game to the following Sunday, August 14th. Kickhams had always proved quite a stumbling block for Treacy's but they didn't stand a chance that day against a team bent on rehabilitation.

The O'Dwyer cup went back to the hills for the fourth time and the men responsible were Phil Berkerry, Jim Nolan, Christy O'Dwyer, Paddy Ryan, Gerry O'Toole, John Quigley, Pat Carey, Philip Ryan, Pat Quigley, Tommy Ryan, Frank Berkerry, P. J. Caplis, John Carey, Billy Berkerry and Dinny Ryan. They accounted for an up-and-coming Holycross in Cashel but try as they might and believe you me they tried, they were unable to beat Kilruane in the County Semi-Final.

By now, half the team had been honoured with the county singlet in some grade or another. Din Ryan, Pat Quigley, John Carey and Phil Ryan had donned the senior shirt, with Tommy Ryan, P. J. Caplis and Philip Ryan honoured players on the 21 side, while Christy O'Dwyer went through the ropes as a minor. As befitted a side with that much talent and under the watchful eye of Donnie Nealon, they again made the decider in 1978 to take on Cappawhite lads in Sean Treacy Park.



*BACK ROW (Left to Right) — Seamus Allis, Matt Carey, P. J. Caplis, Jim Nolan, J. J. Ryan, Phil Berkery, Frank Berkery, Rev. J. Fogarty, C.C.; John Carey, Pat Carey, Donie Carey, Pat McMahon.*

*SECOND ROW (Left to Right) — Paddy Ryan, Gerry O'Toole, Dinny Ryan, Christy O'Dwyer (Capt.), Pat Quigley, Phil Ryan, Tommy Ryan, Philip Ryan (M), John Quigley.*

*FRONT ROW (Left to Right) — Tom Berkerry, Liam Ryan, Pat Quinlan, Bertie Keane, John McHugh.*

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# Con Keane

A native of Cashel who came to Thurles in the late 20's after a brief spell in the army in Kilkenny where he played with the village. He joined the Sarsfields and played Inter-County Hurling and Football in 1928. In that year he was a member of the Tipperary football team that beat Kerry in Tipperary town. He had the unique distinction also of playing hurling and football with Munster in the Railway Cup on the same day.

He then emigrated to America for a few years where he continued until his return to Thurles in 1931. It is a well-known fact that but for his going to U.S.A. he would be on the Tipperary 1930 winning All-Ireland team. He continued his career with the Blues until the formation of the Kickhams Club with whom he played for a number of years. In the famous 1937 game against Sarsfields he scored 1-6 from centre field.

An artist in both codes and a keen lover of coursing and a game of "25" he took a special pride in the prominent part his three sons played, Connie, Larry and Blackie in the great Sarsfield's team of the '50's and '60's. ■



(continued)

Indiscretions, something slowly disappearing from their make-up as they matured, reared their ugly heads once more and referee Willie Carroll was forced to apply the rules. Up to that time they had been on the receiving end of a hurling and scoring lesson from the Cappa lads. Reduced as were their opponents to 13 players, they mounted a breathtaking rally that brooked no opposition. With Pat Quigley and the brothers Carey, John and Donie, scoring points and goals from all angles, they overwhelmed the lads from the village, running out the easiest of winners when Willie Carroll called it a day.

On that occasion Treacy's lined out: P. Berkerry, J. Nolan, C. O'Dwyer, P. Ryan, G. O'Toole, J. Quigley, Philip Ryan, P. Quigley, P. J. Caplis, T. Ryan, F. Berkerry, J. J. Ryan, D. Ryan, J. Carey, D. Carey.

In the county series they put up a terrific show against Roscrea, who failed to make it by a bare point against Kilruane in the final.

They were again in line for the 3-in-a-row, an abiding ambition and this time with their own pitch at the cross and enthusiasm at a high pitch they were resolved that nothing would stop them. In the event, 1979 proved rugged enough. They got quite a fright from Cashel K.C. in the semi-final of the Crosco Cup at the height of their preparation. This game came to an abrupt end 5 minutes from time with King Cormacks, at the time, leading by no less than ten points. There was no reason, that I could see, for the flare up that caused the game to end so suddenly. On that occasion Cashel fielded no less than eight of their junior side. Having qualified in the usual manner for the knockout series, Treacys came up against Eire Og in the semi-final. They are only too well aware how luckily they survived by a matter of 2 points. Meanwhile Cappawhite having already gone under earlier to Treacy's had qualified for the decider by defeating King Cormacks in the semi-final.

Thus we had the same finalists for the second year in succession. There was talk of a reversal of the result and Cappa were favoured to take their first title in years. Training was intensive in both camps with Donie Nealon again in charge of

the champions. Rain came to Bansha all morning of August 5th but mercifully stopped before the games started. There was a bounciness about the champions puck-about that boded ill for Cappa. Right from the moment John Moloney threw in the ball to the end of the game there was not let-up. With clinical precision they took their opponents apart. Admittedly not too difficult a task because for some inexplicable reason, Cappa's hurling never got off the ground. Mercilessly they put on score after score to take their third in a row amid scenes of indescribable enthusiasm. "Dad' army showed them how today", said one of their exuberant veterans, to all and sundry.

For the record here is the fifteen that achieved a great ambition:- P. Berkerry, J. Quigley, C. O'Dwyer (Capt.), P. Ryan, G. O'Toole, P. Ryan (m), P. Carey, P. Quigley, J. J. Ryan, T. Ryan, D. Ryan, F. Berkerry, J. Carey, D. Carey, P. J. Caplis.

Having beaten Fionn MacCumhaill in the quarter-final of the County Championship they went out before Thurles Sarsfields, having given the poorest display of their career in the semi-final. Associated with this remarkable bunch of players in all their victories and defeats were John Quigley and the Ryan brothers Dinny, Phil and Paddy. I say "remarkable" for the reason that only 3 or 4 of the players work in the area.

Dinny Ryan and T. J. O'Dwyer have lately been chosen as senior and minor selectors respectively. You don't have to be too old to remember the fearless displays of "Little Dinny", as he was known. He made the county team in 1970 and the following year was a valued member of Tadgh O'Connor's side that won our last All-Ireland. We still have memories of his "second bite at the cherry" goal against Ollie Walsh. He toured the States that year and the time and effort put in since then have been rewarded with this latest honour. We wish him every success in this responsible chore.

T. J. O'Dwyer won his first and only county championship with Treacy's in the Spring of 1967, when with players like present Chairman, Mick Caplis, the Moloughney brothers, Billy Linehan and a multiplicity of Ryans they won the 1966 junior title. He had the privilege of playing between the posts for the team that won its first-ever senior hurling title. We wish him also every success in the position. ■

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## Paddy Dwyer

The death of Paddy Dwyer in the first week of May removed one of the final few links with that period of Boherlahan dominance in Tipperary hurling which, between 1916 and 1925, brought to the county two All-Irelands and four Munster Championships.

Remembered as a centre-forward of tremendous dash, with an amazing facility for blocking down an opponent's clearance, and a preference for the ground ball which he distributed to his wings and corners rather than going for his own score, Paddy came onto his club team in 1916, the year in which Boherlahan brought home the county's ninth All-Ireland.

In the following year he was a member of the team which went down to Dr. John Ryan's Dublin selection in a final which Carbery, that great chronicler of great games, was to recall as one of the greatest games he ever saw. Ironically, one of Dublin's heroes was a Tipperaryman, Bob Mockler, but their heroes were many and they included such all-time greats as Frank Burke (1916 veteran and headmaster of St. Enda's), Dr. Tommy Daly, Tommy Moore, Sean Hyde and Brendan Considine who came on as sub.

Paddy's part in the national struggle – he was First Lieutenant of the Boherlahan Company of the Republican Army since after 1916 – was to have a vital effect on the outcome of the 1922 championship. He was active in the Republican cause during the Civil War and was 'on the run' just as he had been during the War of Independence. The championship of 1922 was suspended for the duration of the Civil War but by the time hostilities ceased – in April, 1923 – he and his club-mate, Joe Nagle, were behind bars at the Curragh, both having been captured during house searches in Boherlahan.

In the first days of July, 1923, Tipperary played a draw with Limerick, led by Bob McConkey. In the

replay Tipp, playing with fourteen men – Jack Power having been sent off for a retaliatory blow on a Limerick player – won by two points and went through to the All-Ireland.

The war being over, it was thought it might not be impossible to procure the release of Paddy and Joe Nagle in time for the final. Approaches were made through Davie Stapleton of Clonmel to General Prout of the Southern Command to whom it was suggested that the military might also turn a blind eye if Paddy Leahy turned out – he being still 'on the run'. But the Free State authorities had not yet come to recognise in the G.A.A. the great medium of unity which it would afterwards prove to be and the request was refused. Without Dwyer, Nagle and Leahy, Tipperary were beaten by 4-2 to 2-6 in what was again to be regarded as an epic final. And the belief still persists that the military were not nearly so strict with the Kilkenny men!

Paddy was on the team which won the 1925 All-Ireland, toured U.S.A. in 1926 and won the National League in 1927. His brother Willie and his cousin, Willie Dwyer of Lisloran, were also on both teams – a fact noted by Dan English of Clonoulty in one of his now-forgotten poetic renderings –

There's a brace of O'Dwyers,  
Said the Sean Bhean Bhocht;

Kilkenny said they're flyers,  
Said the Sean Bhean Bhocht;

They were lined across the back,  
The forwards for to crack;  
But they seldom crossed their track,  
Said the Sean Bhean Bhocht.

Paddy was grand company, a patriot and a genuine Gael. He was respected among his peers of a generation of whom it may truly be said, "Ni fheicimid a leithéid arís."

Go ndéanfaidh Dia trácaire ar a anam. ■

## Bill Harney

Also of Thurles was called to his eternal reward during the year. Bill played in the lean period with the Sarsfields during the 1920's and his only Senior Championship success was in 1929 when they broke the Boherlahan-Moycarkey reign. He was a member of the Sarsfields 1925 Mid Championship successful team but some internal dispute followed and Boherlahan were declared County Champions in that year. With the formation of Thurles Kickhams in 1935 he and his brothers Jimmy (Skinny) and Timmy transferred across the bridge, with whom they gave sterling service in the years ahead. His brother "Skinny" was on the All-Ireland Senior team in 1930. Bill was a hard, close but fair player. ■



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## Rev. Bro. J. J. Stapleton

In far-off days when the numbers attending secondary schools was nothing like they are now, colleges hurling had little room for the small school. There were no B or C groups. There were the Harty and the Dean Ryan Cups in Munster and in this county the Croke Cup, then generally known as the Under-Fifteen. The fact that a small school's only outing in Munster was apt to be against Flannan's, Thurles, North Monastery, or another of the big guns was hardly an encouragement to enter competitions.

Nenagh C. B. S., with about ninety on its secondary school roll, took an annual drubbing from Thurles which by normal calculations would put an end to any enthusiasm that existed. But what we lacked in numbers, size and skill we made up for in sheer effort and when Br. J. J. Stapleton began giving us the attention we needed we went as near as makes not much difference to winning the Dean Ryan.

Evening after evening he went with us to MacDonagh Park to referee a practice game and put us through

sprints. There were friendly games against teams from far-flung places and journeys to Limerick, Adare, Cashel and Thurles in cars driven by Ned Gleeson, Matt Sheary, Frank McGrath and Johnny Cahalan – all now sadly deceased – were marked by long stops on the way home and bottles of orange and lots of advice.

The training and the practice games weren't wasted on us. We beat Thurles, led by Ray Reidy, and only went down narrowly in the semi-final to Dungarvan who went on to beat Sullivan's Quat by a cricket score in the final.

Only long years afterwards did we realise how much it must have taken physically out of Bro. Stapleton to walk to the field after a day's work and referee a game. Always of frail health, he did well to survive a year. He left Nenagh shortly after and he spent many years in Doon before retiring to Thurles some months before his death last June.

A gentleman to his fingertips, his first and greatest love was hurling. In the classroom or out of it he never spoke a harsh word of anyone and hundreds of ex-pupils will remember with gratitude his courtesy and Christian kindness.

Beatha siorraí dá anam. ■

## Paddy Maher

(“White Head”)

Sarsfields it is accepted produced many skilful players but none of the calibre of “White Head”. An artist in his own right, skilful and tricky he was always able to produce something new to outwit his opponent. Unlike his two deceased friends he had the distinction of being a member of a very successful Sarsfields team and won County Honours in 1935, '36, '39, '42, '44, '45 and '46, and in 1938 in which year he played with Thurles Kickhams, Sarsfields also won County Honours.

He was a sub on the 1937 Tipperary All-Ireland winning team in Killarney and but for an injury received before the finals it is believed he would be on the first fifteen. He also played in League and Tournament games during the period with the county.

When his playing career ended he served for many years as a committee member of the Sarsfields club and played a major part in the success of the club in the '50's and '60's. His sons Paddy (Kinger), Martin (Musha), Benny, Golly and Tony all played for Sarsfields. Benny and Kinger were both Intermediate County Minors with Musha gaining Senior honours in the 1956-'59 period.

Paddy Maher had many other talents, a very keen and accomplished fisherman, his many friends on the Suir will miss his advice on which “fly to cast”. For those of us who knew Barney and Rose will cherish the memories of the late night “feeds” in Ballycahill, Bunkers Hill or the Commons.

As I stood by his graveside in Loughtagalla as the Blue and White Flag was taken from his coffin I felt sure that Paddy was happy that “he was buried in a Thurles Sarsfields Grave” as he so often asked in song.

To the three families we extend our sincere sympathy.  
Ar dheis De Go Raibh a Nanam Go Leir. ■

TOMAS Ó BARÓID,  
RUNAL.



# A Tribute to Michael Prior

THE GLORIES AND BEAUTY of our national pastime, the skill and manliness of youthful endeavour, is the envy of other cultures and the pride and joy of all Irishmen. Down the years there have been great men, whose efforts and commitment have sustained the game of hurling and brought it from strength to strength in many areas. Such a man was Mick Prior of Borrisoleigh.

His passing from this life on 14th June, '79, was mourned by all who loved the game throughout the length and breadth of Tipperary. Mick Prior's name was synonymous with juvenile hurling in North Tipperary. I, like a great many others, was one of Mick Prior's "juveniles". I recall, even now, the evenings in "the park"; the practising of frees, side line balls, 70's; the handpass and the sidestep; terms that have since been labelled "skills" of the game; but to Mick, he was handing on a tradition and a culture in his own unique way. His patriotism lay not merely in his devotion to hurling, but in his love of all things Gaelic.

This was manifested in his frequent visits to the Gaeltacht where he chose to spend his holidays living out the cultures of language, song and dance, which were so close to his heart.

Mick was a man whose simplicity and sincerity endeared him to so many. The little things of life that made him happy were so often overlooked and bypassed by others in the humdrum rush of day to day materialism. His work with children, his remarkable influence on them, his kindness and understanding was the envy of many parents. Their loyalty and admiration for him in return was his



greatest source of pride. He sought no monetary rewards; he gave unselfishly his voluntary efforts to all things Gaelic.

Even when ill health dogged him, he continued to assist Bord na nOg in every way. In his role as secretary he guided the Borrisoleigh club and his energy and enthusiasm was astounding up to the very end.

He loved his parish and its people. There in "the park" in Borris, he spent his evenings, his free time, among the

children of our parish. He undertook the roll of coach, trainer, counsellor and confessor, as he introduced children to our games and traditions year after year, one summer after the next. The children looked up to him, respected him and sought his advice; and as they passed on to manhood that respect grew still more, and they still sought his advice and counsel.

As his remains were borne shoulder high through the streets of his native Borris, and as the lone piper lamented his passing with the thousands who gathered in final tribute, one could not but sense victory in the midst of sorrow and regret.

Old men marvelled at the intensity and feeling of that last farewell. The "victory" was there for the silent, the patient, the gentle, the meek; who realised that such qualities in a person will finally be recognised. Mick Prior never sought to accumulate earthly goods. Though unmarried, every boy who wielded a hurley became part of his family. He has left behind a legacy that will withstand the ravages of time. His name will be remembered while there is a shred of Gaelic tradition in any corner of North Tipperary; and generations yet unborn will have handed down to them by their fathers and grandfathers that same love of hurling that they as children received from Mick Prior.

Go dtuga Dia Suaimhneas na bhflaitheas da anam dhilis; agus to bhfaighe se toraidh a shaothair i measc na naomh.

Timmy Delaney N.T.

## The Spirit of Tipperary

(Air: See The Spirit of the Nation)

THE GALLANT STAND against oppression made by the Tipperarymen — foremost amongst whom as her cousin, the great John O'Leary — so won the admiration of the noble soul of "Eva" that she poured forth her unstinted praise in a song that cannot fail to stir the heart of every true Tipperaryman.

*Were you ever in sweet Tipperary, where the fields are so sunny and green,*

*And the heath-brown Sliabh Bloom and the Galtees look down with so proud a mien?*

*Oh, 'tis there you would see more beauty than is on all Irish ground: God bless you, my sweet Tipperary, for where could your match be found?*

*They say that your heart is fearful, that darkness is in your eye; But I'll not let them date to utter so bitter and black a lie,*

*Oh, no, machushla sthoirín, bright, bright and warm are you, With heart as bold as the men of old, to yourselves and your country true!*

*And when there is gloom upon you, bid them think who has brought it there;*

*Sure, a frown or a word of hatred were not made for your face so fair.*

*You've a hand for the grasp of friendship, another to make them quake,*

*And they're welcome to whichever it pleases them most to take.*

*Shall our homes, like the huts of Connaught, be crumbled before our eyes?*

*Shall we fly, like a flock of wild geese, from all that we love and prize?*

*No; by those who were here before us! no churl shall our tyrant be —*

*Our land it is theirs by plunder, but, by Brigid! ourselves are free!*

*We ne'er can forget that greatness did once to our isle belong; No traitor or craven spirit was ever our race among.*

*And no frown or no word of hatred we give — but, to pay them back, In evil, we only follow our enemy's darksome track!*

*Oh, come for a while among us, and give us a friendly hand, And you'll see that old Tipperary is a loving and gladsome land;*

*From Upper to Lower Ormond bright welcomes and smiles will spring,*

*On the plains of Tipperary, the stranger is like a king.*

# A Controversial Thurles Congress 1887

**B**EFORE even the first All-Ireland had been played the G.A.A. was faced with a division which nearly destroyed it. Apart from other less important considerations, the trouble was basically the result of a struggle for the body and soul of the organisation between members of the Irish Republican Brotherhood on the one side and supporters of the constitutional leaders and the clergy on the other. The crisis came to a head at the Congress held in Thurles on November 9th, 1887. The town which saw the birth of the Association three years before would now see a group breaking away and setting up what seemed for a time to be about to become a rival organisation.

The affairs of the Association were already receiving considerable attention in the national press and the presence of a large force of armed police and detectives in the town were evidence of the close eye Dublin Castle was keeping on its deliberations. But nobody expected events to be quite as lively as they turned out and nobody expected that there would be a secession from the organisation.

The Courthouse was the venue for the meeting and the several hundred delegates who flocked there found themselves occupying the galleries and the body of the courtroom, while the executive sat on the Bench and the reporters occupied the clerk's desk. Proceedings began at one-thirty with the absence of Maurice Davin who had resigned the office of President some time previously. Immediately sparks began to fly. P. N. Fitzgerald, a Cork Fenian of whom Michael Davitt had said, "He differs from me radically on my policy but he is an honest enemy," was proposed by Alderman Horgan of Cork and Major O'Kelly of Moycarkey was proposed by Fr. Scanlon of Nenagh. When the second proposal was ruled out of order on the grounds that Major O'Kelly had been expelled from the Association, Fr. Scanlon jumped to his feet to question the expulsion. He refused to accept the authority of Fitzgerald as Chairman, declaring that his election "would be questionable outside" and drawing from a delegate the report, "You are preferring an army pensioner to a Nationalist."

## CHAOS REIGNS

Chaos reigned, delegates shouted at one another and at the meeting in general, the Chairman and Fr. Scanlon attempted to shout each other down, and in the midst of the disorder Fr. Scanlon led Fr. Cunningham of Silvermines, Fr. Crowe of Carrigatoher and Fr. Molony of Toomevara onto the table in front of the Bench. A reporter observed: "A great deal of struggling and a great deal of confusion followed. The reporters had to jump up on the Bench to save themselves. No blows were struck but some of the priests were hustled about and sticks were wielded ominously and things looked extremely threatening."

Miraculously, a Dublin member of the Executive, Patrick Hctor, made himself heard to propose that all those in favour of Fitzgerald as Chairman should raise their hands. A newspaper of the day described what followed:

"Mr. Hctor then put the motion to the meeting and it was plain that Mr. Fitzgerald had a majority of those present."

Chairman — Now gentlemen, I hope our reverend friend is satisfied?

Fr. Scanlon — I claim to be heard as well as he was.

Mr. Forde — Are you going to keep a thousand men here all day?

Chairman (determinedly) — No, we will have to make it rough if this goes on.



SEAMUS LEAHY

A Voice — Rough we will make it (cheers).

These remarks and ejaculatory speeches were going on around the reporters' desk, while in the body of the courthouse there was a series of altercations and a tumult of cheers and counter cheers.

Chairman (to Fr. Scanlon) — Are you satisfied with the show of hands?

Fr. Scanlon — I am not.

Chairman — This must end somewhere, I will hear no one further.

At this period things got very threatening. The crowd swayed backwards and forwards; the priests were sometimes nearly driven off the table . . .

Portion of the desk in front of the reporters was then trampled down.

Chairman — There are only six men disturbing this meeting and I will get them put out (cheers).

Fr. Scanlon fell back on the desk, a number of men were seized by the collars, loud cries arose, sticks were brandished, the priests were driven roughly about, and there was a scene of excitement that threatened to develop into a riot.

Mr. Forde (fiercely to Fr. Scanlon) — It is a terrible thing for a few men to be conducting themselves in this way.

Fr. Scanlon (At the top of his voice) — If this is persevered in, you will break up the organisation.

A Voice — There will be other things broken up too."

# TALKING WITH JOHN JOE HAYES

By JOHN O'GRADY

UNINHIBITED BY THE revolving tape, unselfconscious as if we were chatting on the roadside, John Joe Hayes talked. Five years older than the twentieth century, sharply alert of mind, tenacious of memory; the eyes that had seen almost the complete span of hurling history sparkled with mellow good humour. As he talked, it was as if the shades of the old hurlers glided into the ultra-modern setting of a two-month old bungalow at Ballyerk, Two-mile-Borris. John Joe and his wife Margaret have the new premises, their son Dan and family the older.

His memory ranges far through time and space – from games at homely Shanbally to exotic San Francisco; from the days of Bob Mockler and Jimmy Burke who united the Jockey and Borris to win the Mid in 1910, through his own bril-

liant career with Tipp from 1917 to 1929 and his longer run with his parish team, on into his spell as a county selector with Paddy Leahy in three-in-a-row times of 1949-51. Of the famous 1925 All-Ireland team only he, Tom Duffy, Martin Kennedy and Roddy Nealon survive the hazards of the years. He held the purse-strings of Mid Division for decades, as well as serving on his parish committee.

John Joe is not the sort to allow an interview to become a questionnaire. Topics came, went and returned at his discretion; with the placid imperiturbability of age he directed the flow of reminiscence of opinion. "Why did we hurl at all? Nothing else to do; we were always at it. There would be seven or eight binding corn in a place. After the dinner, out would come the ball for half an hour or so. They'd be calling for us to get back to the binding. The Purcells now, there were four of them, all the time out, hurling away behind the work-

shop. 'Twas Dwyer (the "Cooper") – used to have a pub on the Borris road out of Thurles – who said: "if anything happened to the hurling, what would the Borris lads do on a Sunday?"

## A FAST WING-BACK

What kind of hurler was he himself? A fast, ball-playing wing-back, good enough to hold a Tipp place for twelve years, to be picked on the Tailteann Games team of 1924, to win five county titles – one less than his late brother Tom. "Carbery wrote on the paper after we beat Clare in 1917 – gave them a hell of a walloping – that he was at a loss to know who the newcomer was who seemed to have a roving commission; I was the newcomer". Judgment was a prime gift of John Joe's. "I ran into Johnny Leahy one day he was refereeing a match in Thurles. I hit this free from the middle of the field and a Moyne backman came out with the ball. I knew when he was going to draw on it just

(continued)

## THE WITHDRAWAL

The meeting continued in this vein with Fr. Scanlon speaking from a standing position on the Bench beside the Chairman. Finally, at a quarter to three, he withdrew, followed by the other priests and some two hundred delegates. Those remaining behind cheered wildly.

The remainder of the proceedings were conducted in a somewhat more businesslike fashion, despite the difficulties presented by people climbing in through broken windows. The Secretary's report was read and E. M. Bennett was elected President by 316 votes to 210 for Maurice Davin, many of whose supporters had left with the walkout group. A motion proposed by P. N. Fitzgerald forbidding clubs taking part in political meetings, though recognising the right of club members to attend in an individual capacity, was passed. The full significance of this was seen only a few minutes later when a motion declaring the sympathy of the Association with William O'Brien, then in jail for his Land League activities, was ruled out of order. One delegate, however, declared the resolution passed, "not by the Association but by a body of Irishmen." The meeting ended in almost total darkness, most of the lamps having been broken during the heady scenes before the walkout.

In the meantime the dissenting group, comprised mainly of delegates from North Tipperary, Kilkenny, Wexford, Wicklow and some Dublin clubs which were under suspension, had held a meeting in the Courthouse yard at which Fr. Scanlon announced that they would form a new association which would support the Land League.

## AT HAYES' HOTEL

Led by the priests and cheered by the townspeople, they marched to Hayes' Hotel where, on the proposal of a Wexford delegate, seconded by Frank Tuohy of Holycross, Fr. Scanlon took the chair. There were resolutions of support for the Land League leaders, the speakers including P. J. Brolan of Inch, C. McGrath of Templemore, John Cullinan of Bansha and J. K.

Bracken, Vice-President of the Association, who said the men in the Courthouse "should have listened to the priests of Tipperary and there was no man in Ireland's ground but would be of the same opinion." Finally, it was decided to invite Maurice Davin to become President and Dr. Croke to act as Patron. Thus the stage was set for the launching of a rival G.A.A.

Within a few days Dr. Croke withdrew his support from the official Association. But he did not let the matter rest there and, with the purpose of healing the split, he initiated moves which led to a number of meetings over the next few weeks. The I.R.B., for their part, were no more anxious than the Archbishop to see the Association dismembered and its Supreme Council put pressure on those involved to be prepared to step down rather than make the split permanent. Michael Davitt, the Fenian veteran John O'Leary, P. N. Fitzgerald and Maurice Davin were involved in negotiations and a committee was set up to heal the breach.

The following January a special Congress was held in Thurles at which, for the good of the Association, The I.R.B. men gave way. Maurice Davin resumed office as President, the Association began to move forward better organised than ever, and the *Freeman's Journal*, which had done so much to foment discord between its rival groups, returned to its customary attitude of totally ignoring the Association's activities.

It is of interest to note the Tipperary clubs which were represented at the breakaway meeting. They were: Portroe, Carrigatoher, Cloughjordan, Silvermines, Ballinaclogh, Toomevara, Lorrha, Dualla, Moyglass, Carrickbeg, Killeenale, Denis Dowling Mulcahys, St. Johnstown, Borrisoleigh, Kickhams, Carrick-on-Suir, Holycross, Moycarkey, Cloneen, Drangan, Mullinahone, Killoscully, Moyle Rangers, Fethard, Killusty, Lisronagh, Two-Mile-Borris, Knight, Honey Mount, Kilcommon, Ardinnan, Templetohy, Youghalarra, Cashel, Golden, Abbeyville, Gortmore, Kilbarron.

Among those who remained behind at the Courthouse and who took a prominent part in the deliberations there were Robert Frewen (Aherlow), Patrick O'Brien (Nenagh) and John Coleman of Newport. ■

where he'd put it. Moving across I ran into Johnny. Where in the name of God are you going? says he; to make a point, says I. The ball fell into my hand and I put it back over the bar from seventy yards. Johnny always told that one".

He likes to talk of the fine players of the Tipp clubs. "The two best ball players in Boherlahan were Joe Nagle and Arthur Donnelly". Did he recall Mikey Maher? "Oh, I do; he must have been six foot six. I saw him in a few games. He'd stand over the ball, keep back the little fellows – like a hen with chickens around him – wait to see were you coming in, tip it to you of a shot and then all follow up the attack, sweeping before them. Tom Semple was a grand hurler, great stickman. Paddy Brohan was the best of them in Thurles; I'd put him against the best. Toomevara was mostly ball-players; Boherlahan were tearaway, hard hurlers giving nothing soft. Moycarkey was a mixture of the two.

### THE BEST HALF-BACK LINE

What were Cork like in his Time? "I'll tell you a system we had: mark Cork dead. If we were playing Limerick, go out and hurl. Limerick were a tough, strong team. They had the best half-back that stood in Ireland – Dinny Lanigan, Willie Hough, Jack Keane, all fourteen stone men. Paddy Leahy used to play on Keane. Dannix Ring was the best stickman of the Cork fellows; Eudie Coughlan was as fine a player as ever caught a stick. Then there was Sean Oge, Mick Murphy, Paddy Delea, "Love" Higgins, the Ahermes, Jim Hurley and Jim Regan. Now I'll ask you a question. Phil Purcell and Bill Ryan ("Kilmainham") were half-backs, but if you asked most people they'd plump for Purcell all the time. But how was it that Eudie Coughlan could go out and hurl Phil out of it – and Bill Ryan could play him a lot better? And still, Mickey Crosse of Limerick would hardly give Bill a look at it; Phil would beat Crosse most of the time. 'Twas a matter of different styles. Bill could get out fast to the ball, keep it away from Coughlan, the only way to beat a great man; the only way Ring was ever held, too".

### MACKEY AND RING

"Mick Mackey was the greatest of his time. I'd give it to Mackey over Ring – as quick with the stick as Christy, he could run against a man and knock him out of the way. Ring had to get there first, but Mackey could be late and still fight his way to possession.

"Of the goalkeepers, I'd say Reddon was the best of them all. There was a fellow with Cork – Sailor Gray they called him – he was a hard one to beat. Then you had Scanlan and our own fel-

lows, like the O'Mearas and little Jimmy Maher, and Kilkenny had Darmody, O'Connell and Ollie Walsh. Tommy Daly was a wizard. The goalies got more trouble than they do now. Sure the forwards were nearly in the square, come in and hit you a shot after blocking the ball. They were abused; some referees would protect them, others didn't bother; 'twas up to the backs. Willie Walsh of Waterford was the best referee".

### KEEPING FIT

Was it easy to keep players fit in his time? "Oh, no trouble. Hard work made 'em fit and strong. Now they're sitting up on tractors". What does he think of the current hand-passing trend? "Don't



We regret to record the death of John Joe Hayes on November 11th 1979, only a month after the interview took place on which the accompanying article is based. His passing removes a link with early times of hurling history. We extend sympathy to his bereaved widow, son, daughter and sisters. May he rest in peace.

*Editors*

Note: Photograph taken January 7th 1979 as he spoke at the unveiling in Moycarkey churchyard of a memorial to the famous hurler Paddy Maher (Best).

agree with it at all; rahter see 'em hurl it off the stick. I saw where somebody said handball is for an alley, and hurling is for a field – I agree with that". Why do scores tend to be higher nowadays? "The advantage is to the forwards now; in our time it was to the backs, with close marking and scores hard-earned".

The 1926 disappointment still rankles. They came back from the American trip as "World Champions", went to Cork for the championship. "We were five points up. The crowd came in. You couldn't even make a wide. We lost the second replay in town after Martin Mockler was put off for pulling across Gah Aherne".

He recalls the "Gaelic Sunday" of troubled times. "We hurled Thurles. It didn't matter about winning. They couldn't arrest us all, the jails would be full; we bested 'em there". The Civil War caused problems for several years after it was over – lads a bit slow to play with men from the opposite political side. "But the G.A.A. coped with it, helped to get them talking or maybe drinking together again." Some years it was Divisional selections that played for the championship, like 1924 when John Joe captained the Mid to win. "Twas a great way to bring players to notice that might not be seen otherwise. Tom Duffy came on in that way.

"In 1919 we were going to Cork. 'Twas the time of the Tans and the Volunteers. Mallow bridge was broken down and we had to be in Cork before the curfew came on at nine o'clock. So we had to get off the train. All the Munster Council was there and they said we should go on a lorry. Cars would be too dear, they made out. Johnny asked me for my opinion. If they gave us the cost of a lorry we'd walk it, I said, rather than have Tipp arrive on the back of an old lorry".

### RARE TROPHIES

His collection of medals features some rare ones indeed. There's the Tailteann one of 1924 with "an Bhanrioghan Tailte" (queen Tailte) described on it; a medal identified with "Polo Grounds"; awards from tournaments long abandoned. His finger runs along the rows of a Tailteann photograph. "That's Nealon, a real flier he was . . . there's Willie Ryan of Limerick, father of Rev. Seamus in the College . . . Builder Walsh, Jimmy Humphreys, Ignatius Harney, Junior Mahony, the Galway goalkeeper . . .". I look from the image of a young John Joe Hayes to the lively old timer beside the fire and reflect how well he wears the dignity of age. And loves to talk of hurling. ■

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# Bright Future for Eire Óg, Nenagh



*Eire Óg, Nenagh. U-16 County Hurling Winners, 1979.*



*Eire Óg, Nenagh. North Minor Hurling Champions, 1979.*



*Eire Óg, Nenagh. North Under 21 Hurling Champions, 1979*

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## Tipperary's All-Stars 1979



*PAT McLOUGHNEY*

His brilliant goalkeeping in the League and especially in the Munster championship game against Cork earned him selection in goal for the Bank of Ireland All-Stars 1979.

Pat was awarded the Padraig Purséal trophy for the outstanding player of the tour.



*TADGH O'CONNOR*

Usually a half back but transferred to left corner this year his tenacious tackling and brilliant covering in defence in the match against Cork won for him a deserved All-Star award.



*J. Keogh.*

His consistent play as full back was recognised when he was chosen as a replacement for Martin Doherty for the United States tour.



*Tipperary's recipients of the 1979 B + I hurling awards: Jim Kehoe (left) and Francis Loughnane.*

## County Championship Results 1979

### SENIOR FOOTBALL

#### Senior Quarter Finals

Galtee Rovers 1-16; Fethard 1-8.  
Commercials 2-14 Cappawhite 0-5.

#### Quarter Finals

Loughmore/Castleiney 8-14 Moyle Rovers 3-3. Kilruane 5-10 Fionn MacCumhaill 1-4.

#### Semi Finals

Loughmore/Castleiney 3-14 Kilruane 2-8. Galtee Rovers 1-8 Commercials 1-6.

#### County Final

Loughmore/Castleiney 2-11 Galtee Rovers 1-9.

#### Senior Hurling Quarter Finals

Kilruane 5-15 Holycross-Ballycahill 2-8; Sarsfields 2-12 Moneygall 0-13; Sean Treacy's 1-13 Fionn MacCumhaill 1-5; Cappawhite 3-11 Davins 2-12.

#### Semi Finals

Sarsfields 1-16 Sean Treacy's 1-7; Kilruane 2-19 Cappawhite 5-7.

### North Division Results

#### Nealon Trophy Hurling Final

Toomevara 2-8, Moneygall 2-7.

#### M.H.C. Final

Eire Óg 4-5, Toomevara 1-2.

#### M.F.C. Final

Erins Hope 1-6, Silvermines 0-6.

#### Under-21 Hurling Final

Eire Óg 3-4, Roscrea 1-5.

#### Under-21 Football Final

Inane Rovers 1-6, Sean Treacy's 1-5.

#### Junior Hurling Final

Silvermines 5-5, Borrisokane 4-8 (a draw).  
Replay: Silvermines 5-8, Borrisokane 2-4.

#### Intermediate Hurling Final

Templederry 2-11, Portroe 1-10.

### South Division Results

#### Intermediate Football Final

Cahir 1-8, Ballylooby/Castlegrace 0-8.

#### Under 21 Football Final

St. Augustines 2-15, St. Finnans 1-1.

#### Under-21 Hurling Final

Eire Og (Killenaule/Mullinahone) walk over.

#### County Final

Kilruane 2-18 Sarsfields 3-6. (Three in a row).

#### Minor Hurling Semi Finals

Loughmore/Castleiney 4-6 Eire Og, Nenagh 1-8; Knockavilla 4-10 Balingarry 2-3.

#### County Final

Loughmore/Castleiney 1-12 Knockavilla 2-4.

#### Intermediate Hurling Semi Finals

Clonmore 2-10 Templederry 2-8; Balingarry 2-14 Solohead 1-3.

#### Intermediate Hurling : County Final

Balingarry 4-8, Clonmore 2-11.

#### Under-21 Hurling Final

Eire Óg, Nenagh v. Killenaule/Mullinahone.

#### Minor Football County Final

Loughmore/Castleiney 2-6, Commercials 1-8.

#### Junior Hurling Final

Silvermines 3-6, Mullinahone 0-4.

#### Senior Hurling Final

Kilruane 1-12, Moneygall 1-9.

#### Junior Football Final

Division I - Newport 3-7, Eire Óg 2-6.  
Division II - Portroe 1-4, Silvermines 1-4 (a draw).  
Replay: Portroe 1-4, Silvermines 0-4.

#### County Junior Hurling Final

Silvermines 3-7, Mullinahan 0-8.

#### County Junior Football Semi-final

Portroe 1-3, Suir View 2-8.

#### Club of the Year

Eire Óg, Nenagh.

#### Hurler Of The Year

Pat McLoughney, Shannon Rovers.

#### Junior Hurling Final

Mullinahone (walk over).

#### Hurler Of The Year

P. J. Ryan, Carrick Davins.

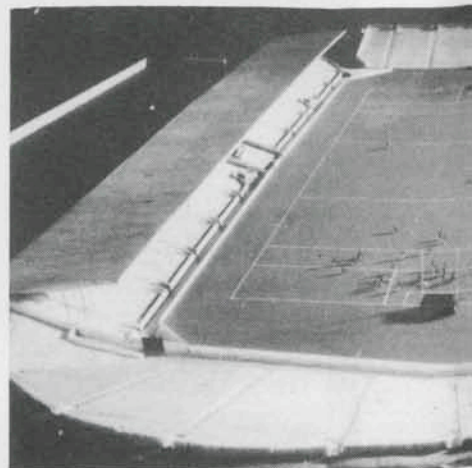
#### Footballer Of The Year

John Keane, Fethard.

#### Footballer Of The Past

Tommy O'Keefe, Kilsheelan and Commercials.

## DIVISIONAL AND C



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FEIDHME

Cathaoi

1887 - J. K. Bracken, Templemore.

1888 - Michael Gleeson, Nenagh.

1889 - Pat McGrath, Tipperary.

1894 - D. H. Ryan, Thurles.

1896 - Pat McGrath, Tipperary.

1901 - Dick Cummins, Fethard.

1905 - Denis O'Keefe, Horse and Jockey.

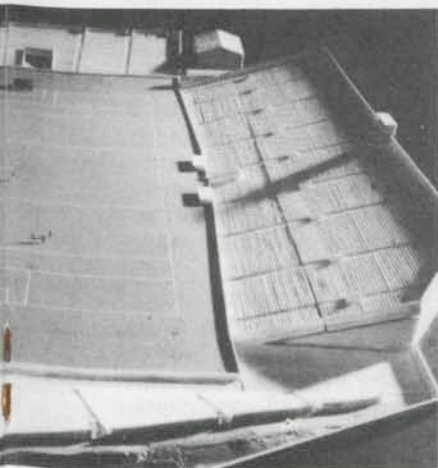
1907 - Frank Moloney, Nenagh.

1910 - Tom Kerwick, Thurles.

1914 - Timothy Ryan.

# COUNTY RECORDS

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## ANAGH

### irleach:

- 1915 — Thomas Semple, Thurles.
- 1917 — Rev. M. K. Ryan.
- 1925 — Capt. Johnny Leahy.
- 1927 — Rev. J. Meagher.
- 1948 — Rev. P. Fogarty.
- 1970 — Seamus O Riain, O.S.
- 1973 — Tomás O hEadhra.
- 1976 — H. Ó Hogáin.
- 1979 — M. Ó Meacair.

## Scór '79

### County Champions

Rinnte Fóirne: Moycarkey Borris.  
Ceol Uirlise: Silvermines.  
Amhranaíocht Aonair: Mary Hogan,  
Shannon Rovers.  
Nuachleas: Portroe.  
Tráth na gCeist: Newport. Denis  
Floyd. Ml. Collins and Ger Floyd.  
Arthriséoireacht: Mahon ó Caoimh,

St. Mary's.

Bailead Ghrúpa: Arravale Rovers.  
Rinnce Seir: Newcastle.  
All County Champions qualified for  
the Munster Finals.  
Mary Hogan and Mahon Ó Caoimh  
won Munster titles.  
And Moycarkey Borris, Portroe,  
Newport and Newcastle were second in  
their respective competitions.

## West Division Results

S.H. Sean Treacy's 3-16 Cappawhite  
2-9.  
I.H. Solohead 2-10 Golden Kilfeacle  
2-8.  
J.H. Lattin Cullen 3-4 Cappawhite  
2-6.  
M.H. Kickhams 3-9 Clonalty  
Rossmore 2-5.

S.F. Galtee Rovers 1-14 Golden  
Rockwell 2-6.  
I.F. Rockwell Rovers 1-10 Emly 0-6.  
J.F. Golden Kilfeacle 1-10 Galtee  
Rovers 0-3.  
M.F. Kickhams 1-12 Lattin Emly 1-5.  
Crosco Cup S.H.  
Cashel K.C. 3-5 Cappawhite 0-3.  
O'Donoghue Cup S.F.  
Closing stages.

## Mid Division Results

### Senior Hurling

Thurles Sarsfields 2-20 Moycarkey  
Borris 1-1.

### Intermediate Hurling

Clonmore 5-10 Boherlahan Dualla  
3-8.

### Under 21 Hurling

Loughmore-Castleiney 1-10 Clon-  
more 1-4.

### Minor Hurling

Loughmore-Castleiney 2-8 Thurles  
Sarsfields 1-3.

### Minor Football

Loughmore-Castleiney 0-12 Tem-  
plemore 1-5.

### Finals to be played

### Senior Football

Loughmore-Castleiney v Tem-  
plemore.

### Intermediate Football

Loughmore-Castleiney v Moycarkey  
Borris.

### Junior Football

Loughmore-Castleiney or  
Clonakenny b Suir View.

### Under 21 Football

Loughmore-Castleiney v Tem-  
plemore.

### Junior Hurling

Boherlahan Dualla v Thurles Fen-  
nellys.

### Junior Football

Suir View 1-4, Loughmore/Castleiney  
1-2.

### Junior Hurling

Boherlahan Dualla 4-6, Thurles Fen-  
nellys 3-6.

## TORTHAÍ NA BLIANA 1979

### Bórd na nÓg

### Under-12 Hurling

Division I — Winners, Kilruane;  
Runners-up, Roscrea.  
Division II — Winners, Templederry;  
Runners-up, Shannon Rovers.

### Under-12 Football

Division I — Inane Rovers; Runners-  
up, Borrisokane.

### Under-14 Hurling

Division I, Toomevara; Runners-up,  
Borrisokane. Urban Rural, Toomevara.  
Runners-up, Kilruane.

Division II, Shannon Rovers;  
Runners-up, Templederry.

### Under-14 Football

Winners, Eire Óg. Runners-up, Bor-  
risokane.

### Under 16 Hurling

Division I — Eire Óg. Runners-up,  
Toomevara.  
Division II — Winners, Shannon Rov-  
ers. Runners-up, Templederry.

### Under-16 Football

Winners, Eire Óg. Runners-up, Sil-  
vermines.

# KILRUANE macDONAGH : THE YEAR OF THE 3-IN-A-ROW

IT'S DIFFICULT TO KNOW where to start in a review of Kilruane MacDonaghs' third County title in-a-row. In many ways 1979 was the year the MacDonaghs finally came of age as one of the great sides, nay, the greatest team this decade.

The defeat of Thurles Sarsfields in the County Final on October 7th in Semple Stadium was the first time this decade that a North side – or for that matter any team – won three titles on the trot.

But the victory over Sarsfields was a more fitting way for the hurlers from the Cloughjordan parish to take their third ever title. It was only fitting that a side that have provided Tipperary with so many loyal hurling sons, etched their name for eternity in the mind of any hurling follower, and with a history of championship success that reads as though God had granted the Blues a divine right to victory, should have been the MacDonaghs opponents in what was an historic victory.

## SWEET TRIUMPH

The victory in that County Final must be the sweetest triumph for the MacDonaghs. To beat a side that has meant so much to Tipperary hurling is as good a way as any to lay claim as the most successful side this decade. And the victory over Sarsfields, while in no way an epic, can be seen as the crowning of the new King by the retiring monarch.

But taking a general look at the Championship this year, it is often difficult to comprehend the slender margin between success and failure. But it is in examining this that one can discover possibly what it is that makes the MacDonaghs tick.

To put the matter in simple terms: Kilruane MacDonaghs are winners. And while that last statement is open to fairly obvious dismissal as being a comment on a year in which victory was theirs, nonetheless, it seems apparent now, at any rate, that MacDonaghs basic framework and approach has success written all over it.

## LIMITATIONS

The MacDonagh team itself is by no means a particularly brilliant side. They are a good team, but where they differ from other good sides is in the fact that they appear to know their own limitations.

In a year in which this writer and several more, believed that Roscrea had the making of North Champions, that Moneygall seemed to be on-song at the right time and that Sarsfields had one of the best balanced teams in the county, one finds that it was the men in the black and white that provided success for their fans.

Looking at the north championship, it appeared that Roscrea were the team to beat. They seemed to have a great blend of youth and experience, and some of the most skilful hurlers in the county.

In their first encounter with Kilruane, they ran out worthy winners. The score on that day, in Nenagh, was 4-8 to 2-10 and Roscrea seemed to be out-shining what then was, in many peoples' view, the declining star of Cloughjordan. But much of that opinion was to vanish as the season went on, although at one stage it seemed for certain that the MacDonagh star had disappeared completely from the scene.

## TENDERHOOKS

MacDonaghs came to the North decider the hard way. In the North championship alone they had to play 8 games before reaching the final. But it was this tenderhook route that brought the team to its peak at the right time.

In the second round as already stated, MacDonaghs lost to Roscrea. The third round brought them face to face with Silvermines – an engagement that was to

be renewed in the closing stages of the championship.

Indeed, the 'Mines can well look at the MacDonaghs and ask why them? At one stage the Silvermines appeared to be certain to qualify, and but for a last minute free pointed for Lorrha to earn a draw in the fourth round, it might have been the blue and white of Silvermines advancing to the penultimate stage. But it is the individual scores which ultimately make up the fabric of the championship. The fact that Kilruane were to survive to a play-off joust with Silvermines is a tribute to their tenacity and determination.

On the day that Silvermines drew with Lorrha, Kilruane were losing to Moneygall. But in the following round the MacDonaghs outplayed an unpredictable Borrisoleigh and merited that play-off with the 'Mines.

## REMARKABLE FIGHT

So Kilruane had survived to the play-off stages after appearing at one time as though their exit was certain. But such was the mood that they were in all year that it was only the wise heads who realised that the MacDonaghs would not be dismissed that lightly.

The victory over 'Mines in the play-off stage seemed to send a tremor through the other clubs. Next to fall was Eire Og, Nenagh, who put up quite a remarkable fight throughout the game and in the end succumbed by six points.

But the real test of the MacDonaghs was yet to come. At this stage the revival of the MacDonaghs fortunes was evident. The Kilruane team had undergone some changes and some of the faces that appeared in the earlier rounds were missing. The team had at this stage settled into a pattern – a pattern that was to lead to the County Championship.

In that semi-final encounter with Roscrea, one was to see exposed in no uncertain terms the real quality of the team.



*Kilruane-MacDonagh Senior Hurling team, County champions, 1979 (three-in-a-row)*

Alas, the game with Roscrea was by no means a classic. Some defensive errors let Kilruane grab the initiative right from the start, but it was doubtful, even if Roscrea were on song, whether they could have stopped the Kilruane advance.

## HUNGER

On that day Kilruane came at their opponents with a hunger in their eyes as though it was their first championship semi-final appearance. Sean O'Meara was devastating in the full forward position and so dominant were Seamus Hennessy and Mackey Keogh at centre-field that Roscrea had to make a positional switch and move Kevin O'Connor and Donie Maloney to try and stop the rot after the interval. But it was to no avail. Seamus Hennessy, probably in his best display all season, ran riot in the second half and at the game's conclusion he had notched a personal tally of 1-9.

For any skeptic or critic evidence had been produced that Kilruane were loitering with intent. But the arrogance of their victory over Roscrea didn't appear to worry the men from Moneygall.

Moneygall had more than their share of success earlier in the decade when they won two county titles in 1975 and 1976. They also had the experienced hand of John Gleeson coaching the side and the commitment of Paddy Maher in the background.

And true enough at half-time, as Kilruane trundled to the dressing room, they found themselves behind 0-6 to 0-5 turning into a stiff breeze in the second-half.

But once again it was the stick of Sean O'Meara that was to send the side on the high road to victory. The goal was vintage O'Meara, the ball coming in low from a free by Hennessy was turned to the net in one swift action by the burly Kilruane man.

From then on in Moneygall struggled to regain the composure that had seen them worry the holders. In typical last ditch efforts they saw the capable Sheppard clear his lines on about three occasions and the irrepressible Hennessy land an insurance point with a few minutes remaining.

## DOMINANCE

It is difficult to establish the strongest facet of the Kilruane game. Many people point to the strength of the half-back line in attempting to explain MacDonagh's dominance. Certainly the half-back line of Jim O'Meara, Paddy Williams and Denis Cahill is a formidable proposition for any team. But more importantly, in relation to the half-backs, is the role the players adopt. Denis Cahill frequently is prepared to lead attacks from his position and the clever passing of Paddy Williams is a feature of the MacDonagh's game.

But the often ignored full back line of Sean Hyland, Denis O'Meara and Enda Hogan is equally as formidable. Indeed Enda Hogan was one of the principal reasons for the quiet game Francis Loughnane had in the North semi-final. But spare a thought for Sean Hyland. Undoubtedly one of the longest serving hurlers in the game at the moment and still as effective. Many people will recall the manner in which he rallied Kilruane in their fourth round clash with Moneygall in Cloughjordan. The sight of Sean Hyland soloing past the half-way line with only minutes remaining, on a grueling hot day, surely remain with anyone who was present.

Tony Sheppard in goal has provided the team with an able keeper and the undoubted skill of Denis O'Meara in front of him has provided a nice balance in the defence.

## USE OF WINGS

Enough has been said of the mid-field pairing and it remains for a few brief words about the forwards. In nearly all of the games that the MacDonaghs have played each of the six forwards have scored. This is indication enough of their strengths. But much of their effectiveness stems from their clever use of the wings.

Thurles Sarsfields discovered that to their loss.

Indeed after watching the energy and thrust of the Kilruane forward line, the O'Sheas, the two Mackeys - Keogh and Waters, the redoubtable Hennessy, the bustling Sean O'Meara, the Williams and the composure of the defence allied with an experienced selection of substitutes, one can well consider that the glory of the MacDonaghs might be brought to further fields.

So Kilruane's triumph was fashioned in a year that sees an upswing in the fortunes of Tipperary hurling. After the Thurles game Len Gaynor promised that Kilruane would provide the lead to Tipperary hurling that Sarsfields had in the past.

That remains to be seen, but in the meantime Kilruane can satisfy themselves that they have a team that are worth County Champions. Their success is the triumph of dedication and commitment, and their reward, as one Kilruane man aptly put it after the final in Semple Stadium, is the knowledge that "they played the game with their heart and won it with their souls".

## RESERVES OF ENERGY

Again it was their commitment and dedication that was to see them through. As in the past Kilruane seemed to be able to call on great reserves of energy and, as they were to prove themselves, time and time again, their whole mental approach was geared to victory; nothing

else would do.

In the quarter finals Kilruane had their expected victory over Holycross. For the latter it was a disappointing day as they had proved earlier in the Mid-Championship that they were a force to be reckoned with. Kilruane never had much difficulty in this game and once again, as in previous games, the working relationship of Hennessy and Keogh proved too much for the opposition.

The semi-final against Cappawhite saw Kilruane's lead eroded in the last quarter as something of complacency entered the side. But again all of the forwards were involved in the scoring and Cappawhite's three goal burst near the conclusion was merely a consolation effort.

So it was that Len Gaynor's men had reached yet another County Final.

However, this final was to be a different proposition. The familiar teams from the North had no longer an interest in the championship. The Roscrea and Moneygall's had been knocked out in earlier rounds and on this occasion it was doubtful if the black and white of the MacDonaghs would hold all that great a threat for the famed blues.

## JUST MARRIED

But the MacDonaghs again appeared to be invincible. They began the game awkwardly, but by the fifth minute they had established their pattern with an Eamonn O'Shea goal. From then on to the finish the MacDonaghs produced one of their finest displays all season.

All sections of the team played on full pistons. In particular, the half-back line was invincible, led by Paddy Williams, who was later to be given man of the match - a great achievement considering he had been married the previous day.

So it was in methodical fashion that the MacDonaghs dismissed the challenge of Sars. For the latter it was a disappointing day and it was only in the last quarter that they performed as everyone knew they could.

But undoubtedly the day belonged to Kilruane. In the opening half they played the wings with devastating effect. Their first time pulling on the ball completely outwitted their younger and more inexperienced opponents and the great rapport between Keogh and Hennessy at mid-field spelled defeat for the Mid Champions.

That victory in Thurles was a fitting climax to a great year for the Cloughjordan men. All the strong points of the side were on show for anyone to witness. But more importantly than that the pride and dedication with which the Cloughjordan men approach their hurling was present in abundance. It is obvious from looking at the side that theirs is a labour of love.

# County Intermediate Champions: Ballingarry

By Michael O'Meara

**I**T was a bright October day in Semple Stadium. The turnstiles clicked merrily and under the stand teams and referee prepared for action. A little bit of history was about to be made with the staging of the first ever County hurling final at Intermediate level. A grand new trophy, kindly presented by Messrs. Millers of Dublin, was on view and the teams about to take the field were the favourites Clonmore, defeated finalists in two of the last three years and South champions Ballingarry.

Having won the Mid title impressively Clonmore had ousted a fancied Templederry side in the semi-final and led by Seamus Burke and coached by Rev. Bro. Perkins they looked the likely champions. Ballingarry had come through a tough campaign in the South accounting for Cahir, holders Killenaule and finally Fethard before comprehensively defeating Sologhead in the second semi-final. Ballingarry's hopes had been dented, however, by the unavailability of Pat Ivors, under suspension since the previous Sunday, and also of corner back John Ivors, on the injured list.

As we waited under the stand for the teams to appear the news broke that the South's prospects had been dealt a further cruel blow. Full-back Matty Brennan would be an absentee

due to a family bereavement and it seemed to us that the loss of three players since the semi-final would prove fatal for Ballingarry.

The early minutes of the game seemed to confirm this view. Clonmore settled down immediately and the South champions seemed set for a roasting as Clonmore notched up five points without reply in the first eight minutes. The reorganised Ballingarry line up was finding the going tough and we wondered if they'd be able to make a game of it. We reckoned, however, without the spirit and determination that has been a hallmark of Ballingarry sides down the years. Ray Brennan shot a fine point from midfield and this was quickly followed by two great scores from Jim Ivors. A Kevin Shelly lob was doubled to the net by Mick McGrath and the game was alive. Clonmore goaled at the other end and as both sides went at it hammer and tongs we held our breaths in the excitement. The play swung from end to end but Ballingarry were now the slicker side especially in attack. A Tommy Brennan goal restored their lead and although Seamus Burke levelled, another great Mick McGrath goal had the South supporters in high glee as the sides went to the dressing rooms with Ballingarry ahead by 3-4 to 1-7 having faced a keen wind.

The opening minutes of the second half were dominated by the Southmen but the scores did not come and Clonmore were soon on terms. The Mid men playing their best hurling of the hour stretched into a two point lead and the game seemed to be



*Ballingarry: Intermediate Hurling Champions 1979*

slipping away from Ballingarry. Excitement was still intense however as both sides played with great fire and spirit. Clonmore continued to have the edge and time ticked away. With just three minutes remaining and Clonmore ahead by two points a great Ballingarry movement which began in midfield and involved four players saw Tommy Brennan gain possession and with most people expecting him to take the point and equalise he shot to the net and the Ballingarry supporters went wild. The same player added a point in the last minute to put the icing on the cake for Ballingarry.

County Chairman Michael Maher presented the trophy to Captain Dan Shelly amid scenes of great excitement and whilst the honours of the day deservedly went South even the most partisan Ballingarry supporter could not but feel sorry for Clonmore who proved gracious and sporting in defeat.

For Ballingarry the hour proved a real triumph over adversity. They showed tremendous reserves of stamina and spirit and fielded fifteen heroes. Whilst Mick McGrath and Tommy Brennan deserve a lot of the plaudits for their goalscoring feats every other man contributed handsomely. Willie Hayes never put a foot wrong in goal and young Michael Sparrow took over the full back role like a veteran. Sean O'Brien made many dashing clearances in the corner whilst Sean Sparrow gave nothing away. Dan Shelly played a captain's part at centre back whilst on the flanks the Molloyes were always to the fore. Milo Molloy showed great skill in midfield and got solid assistance from Ray Brennan. Jim Ivors proved a dashing wing forward, Martin Brennan was a persistent thorn in the Clonmore defence and his accuracy from frees was invaluable whilst John Molloy and Kevin Shelly were invariably in the thick of things. One must also pay tribute to the back room boys whose advice

and guidance was so invaluable. Ballingarry is a relatively small club in a rural area. They do not possess a field but they have a tradition, a club spirit and indeed an organisation that many larger clubs could well envy. Their present success could be traced back to Bord Na n-Og level as many of the selection have figured on successful juvenile teams. The club prides itself on its record at under age level and while men like Dan O'Connor, Michael O'Donnell and Dick Goldsboro' are around to cater for the younger players Ballingarry's future is secure. The team now graduates to senior ranks and new horizons beckon. A senior championship is now the aim and who can say that this is an impossible dream. For the past two years Ballingarry have backboned the Fionn MacCumhaill side which contested the South Senior final and they have proved that the ability spirit and will to win is present among their panel in abundance. We already look forward in anticipation to some stirring battles involving Swan, Davins and Ballingarry in the 1980 championships but doubt that few of the thrills in store for us will match those of that memorable October day in Semple Stadium when Ballingarry proved that South Tipperary still had something to offer Tipperary hurling.

### BALLINGARRY'S RECORD

**County Championships:** Junior Hurling 1973; Inter Hurling 1979; Senior Football 1951; Junior Football 1939.

**South Championships:** Senior Football 1951; 21 Hurling 1970, 1975; Inter Hurling 1971, 1973, 1977, 1979; Minor Hurling 1938, 1960-63, 1978; Junior Hurling 1935, 1939, 1944, 1947, 1966, 1970; Junior Football 1939, 1945, 1947, 1977.



The Roscrea team which won the Yoplait All-Ireland Sevens Tournament organised by Croke-Kilmacud. They defeated the holders Borrisoleigh in the semi-final by 6-10 to 3-6 and in the final they won from Buffers Alley, Wexford, by 7-7 to 4-13.

*BACK ROW: The referee, Kevin Brady, Brendan Maher, Jody Spooner, Peadar Queely, Kevin O'Connor.*

*FRONT ROW: Harry Loughnane, Tadgh O'Connor, Liam Spooner, Francis Loughnane.*

# NORTH TIPP

## BORD NA nÓG REPORT

THE SEASON THAT HAS JUST passed could be described as the year Tipperary reached the standard in all grades of hurling. With an All-Ireland Under-21 Championship to show for our efforts; a point defeat in senior and minor hurling by the eventual Munster and All-Ireland champions respectively – Cork; and a point defeat in the All-Ireland Under-14 Feile na nGael final for Toomevara at the hands of the Rebel County champions. Lady Luck and not standard was all that was lacking. With the exception of our Minor and Under-21's in recent years the performance of our Seniors and Feile representatives would have led one to believe that we were a long way from the standard of the top counties in Ireland. Thankfully this year would seem to indicate that we are there and none more heartening than at juvenile level.

Toomevara had a splendid year taking all the Under-14 hurling competitions; contesting Under-12, Under-16 and Minor competitions in the final stages of the divisional championships. It is but just reward for a dedicated juvenile committee who realised some years ago that if the famed "Greyhounds" were once more to be a driving force in Tipperary hurling then this is the place to start. Thanks to the dedication of men like Phil Hennessey, Donal Shanaghan, Neil Williams, John Joe McCormack and others their efforts are beginning to bear fruit. It is significant that all the strong senior clubs in the division over the past twenty years have given special care to their juveniles and under-age teams. Our County Senior Champions, Kilruane McDonagh, are a case in point, also Moneygall, Roscrea, Silvermines and Eire Og. It's very heartening to see these clubs still having time for their under-age teams in spite of their success at senior level. The number of senior players giving their time and energy to Juveniles in these clubs is also a welcome change and can only do great good for hurling.

It is not only the strong senior clubs who are thought of in our division. North Tipp were very fortunate to have had men of foresight and dedication guiding their affairs in the past. They realised that the small rural club was an important unit of the Association and had a significant contribution to make to the hurling tradition of our county. In 1976 the idea of a section 2 competition for hurling was born. Andreas McDonnell, Burgess; Michael O'Brien, Silvermines and the late Michael Prior, Borrisoleigh, saw the need for a separate competition

By

REV. T. SEYMOUR, C.C.

for the smaller rural clubs to give them better competition and more games. Many of these clubs had lost heart due to invariably receiving heavy defeats at the hands of the stronger clubs. These men realised that this type of competition did little for the promotion of hurling within the smaller clubs. In the short life of this competition it has made a vast difference to the game; its true impact, I believe, will become evident in the years to come.

This year alone saw Templederry win their first juvenile competition in the history of the club when they took the Under-12 hurling; while Shannon Rovers won their first titles in 29 years taking Under-14 and Under-16 section 2 competitions. These successes are only just reward for these two fine clubs who have put in recent years a great deal of effort into the care of their young players. The scenes of wild enthusiasm witnessed at these victories had to be seen to be believed and no doubt a memory that will live long in the minds of these young players. (2) It has given teams more games.

The development of the section 2 competitions has had two main advantages: (1) It has eliminated heavy

In the past year alone there was 114 hurling games played in the division at juvenile level and 36 football games. The incentive to remain in section 1 of the competition is the right to represent the division in inter divisional competitions. All hurling games in both sections 1 and 2 are played on a league system giving all clubs a minimum of four games in each competition. As you will see from the honours list success has been fairly evenly divided.

The standard of football is also reasonably high in the division. Our representatives in the inter divisional competition have always given a good account of themselves often contesting the final stage of the competitions with distinction.

While competition within the division is on a fairly solid footing and of a reasonable standard there is no room for complacency. If standards are to be maintained clubs will have to remain active in the field of coaching and the organisation of parish leagues during the off season. The winter months are an ideal time to perfect skills in young players and to prepare for the championship season ahead.

### HONOURS LIST

**Under-12 Hurling** – Section 1: Kilruane MacDonagh; Roscrea. Section 2: Templederry; Shannon Rovers.

**Under-12 Football** – Inane Rovers; Borrisokane.

**Under-14 Hurling** – Rural: Toomevara; Borrisokane. Urban/Rural – Toomevara; Kilruane MacDonagh.

**Under-14 Football Urban/Rural** – Eire Óg, Nenagh; Borrisokane.

**Under-14 Football Rural** – Borrisokane; Newport.

**Under-14 Football Rural** – Borrisokane; Newport.

**Under-14 Hurling** – Section 2: Shannon Rovers; Templederry.

**Under-16 Hurling** – Section 1: Eire Óg, Nenagh; Toomevara. Section 2: Shannon Rovers; Templederry.

**Under-16 Football** – Eire Óg, Nenagh; Silvermines. ■

AS THIS DECADE DRAWS to a close, one of the chief topics of conversation among hurlers everywhere is the deterioration, if not the downright decline, of Tipperary hurling.

With the exception of 1971, the abysmal failure of Tipperary senior hurlers in the '70's has been a constant source of discomfort and despondency to officials, supporters and all who hold Tipperary hurling dear to their hearts. Is the fire, that has for so long burned so brightly and with such intensity, in danger of extinction? Have we no longer men, inspired by and imbued with the searing spirit of Knocknagow, to fan the flames and carry the torch that has been handed down by those whose names evoke so many unforgettable memories down through the years? These are the burning questions which so many writers, better endowed than this writer with the talents required for such an exercise, have attempted to answer. It is my wish that this inadequate analysis will make some contribution towards the recovery of Tipperary hurling.

### EFFECTS OF AFFLUENCE

It is my contention that, in recent years, the Premier County has suffered more than most from the ravages of affluence. Fears that the basic skills of hurling had disappeared in Tipperary were well and truly dispelled by a brilliant minor team of 1976. It is this evidence which I put forward to support the view that the present plight of Tipperary hurling is caused by more of a weakening of the spirit and a lessening of the commitment required than by a complete lack of talent. In short, our young men are no longer prepared to make the effort or the sacrifices required to restore the once proud name of our County hurling team. Unless and until a spirit of dedication and total commitment motivates our hurlers, Tipperary hurling will continue to dwell in the shadows.

No-one can say that great efforts to arrest the decline have not been made by the county and club officials. However, whether we like it or not, the truth is, that if our concern is sincere and genuine, even greater efforts must be made by our County Board and every official charged with the onerous responsibility of accomplishing so enormous a task. I do not subscribe to the view that Tipperary should have won an All-Ireland title in 1979 although some of those in charge seem to think so. People with even a limited knowledge of the game will, on calm reflection, admit that we were more than a little fortunate to have gone so close at the finish in Cork, even when one considers some of the shortcomings of those in control. We are confronted with the challenges of affluence so it is imperative that the attitudes of officialdom change – and quickly. After all, the game must come first with those at the top and one wonders if that is happening. If we are fortunate enough to find a sufficeint number of young men prepared to meet and indeed conquer the challenge, our County Board must show a much greater and far deeper appreciation of our hurlers, even if this has to be at the expense of Stadia and social amenities. Or course these are desirable, but I contend that in Tipperary there is an urgent need to establish and order our priorities, and this means putting our players first at all times and on no account must any player be at even the slightest financial loss due to his involvement in the game.

No doubt in some quarters this will be regarded as "strange and dangerous talk". Many will bemoan and with some justification, the passing of the "honour and glory of the little village". However, we have no choice. We simply must move and move quickly with the changing times. It is my firm belief that if the outlined approach is adopted it will not be long before Tipperary will find once again a place in the hurling sun.

## SOME THOUGHTS ON TIPP HURLING



*By Mick Roche (Carrick Davins and Tipp)*

### LOOKING FORWARD

Let all true Tipperary Gaels, heartened by the minor success of '76 and the recent under-21 triumph look forward to an early dawn. Above all, let none of us shirk the challenge.

In conclusion, may I be pardoned for digressing from the theme of this analysis by commenting on the broader and wider aspects of our National game. In doing so I am only joining a long list of advocates for a CLOSE SEASON in G.A.A. activities. Our Association stands alone when such a move is ever contemplated. No other sportsmen in any code are exposed to the rigours and demands of an all-year-round activity. Professionals and well-paid sportsmen of the other codes are not asked and expected to indulge in such lunacy – neither should our part-time Gaelic players. The game of hurling simply cannot be played in the bog-like conditons that prevail from November to March. Many budding skills and precocious talents have been buried, never to be resurrected, in the mud of winter league campaign. Young players, the majority of whom are cruelly treated, are too readily discarded by selection committees when they fail to impress in impossible conditons. If hurling is to flourish and prosper then this practice must stop. All those who oppose this considered opinion should first of all examine their consciences and satisfy themselves that their reasons for doing so, do not stem from sheer greed for finance, that is fundamentally detrimental to our players, our Association and above all to the wonderful art that is hurling. ■

# SARSFIELDS : MID SUCCESS, COUNTY REVERSE

WHEN THE EDITOR ASKED ME to pen a few lines on Mid GAA affairs in '79, having particular reference to the re-emergence of Sarsfields as a force in senior hurling, my reactions were a bit confused. On the one hand, nice fellow that he is, I did not like to refuse, while feeling a little embarrassed by such a task because of personal involvement, but on the other, I thought, sure, you have most of the information first hand, and why not do it. So here goes!

This year's Mid championship in senior hurling was easily the most interesting for a few years. Holycross-Ballycahill, who regained the title after a long lapse were fully bent on retaining it; Sarsfields let it be known early on that they were not at all happy at playing second fiddle for the previous three years; and then such as Moycarkey-Borris, Upperchurch-Drombane, Moyne-Templetuohy and Drom-Inch began to assert themselves.

If one required controversy and excitement to get things moving, we certainly had them. There was the exciting draw in the opening round between Moycarkey-Borris and Holycross-Ballycahill at Boherlahan's new pitch when Eamon Darmody points levelled for the challengers, who lost their star forward John Flanagan after only five minutes with a shoulder injury. The replay was every bit as exciting, with Holycross surrendering their title as

*By Michael Dundon*

Moycarkey-Borris marched through to the semi-finals.

Controversy surrounded the Sarsfields v. Moyne-Templetuohy game at Templemore, when, with the former leading comfortably, referee Ted Maher abandoned the game following a general melee midway through the second half. Moyne availed of the reprieve to have their charges well-prepared for the replay at Semple Stadium, and after as fine an hour's hurling as one would wish to see, the sides were level, so a third encounter took place.

This was a non-event, as Sarsfields struck quickly and decisively clinching their semi-final berth in a twenty-minute spurt that tore the Moyne defence asunder.

## THE MID FINAL

Drom-Inch and Upperchurch-Drombane were waiting on the sidelines for the winners, and while Moycarkey-Borris, after some initial hesitation, got through comfortably enough against Drom-Inch, Sarsfields had their hands full disposing of Upperchurch-Drombane with Seamus Barry rampant.

And so the stage was set for the final which was allocated to Boherlahan, and which revived many memories of epic encounters between Sarsfields and Moycarkey at Gaile down the years. This year's decider will be remembered for a very different reason, however, as the Thurlesmen, in top gear from the very start, brushed aside the Moycarkey-Borris challenge with a power and precision they subsequently never attained in the county championship. Sarsfields virtually had the championship sewn up by the interval, when, after playing into the stiffish breeze, they led by 1-6 to 0-1, and they subsequently went on to record a 2-20 to 1-1 victory, their thirty second in the championship.

Sarsfield's re-emergence owed much to the scoring power of Paul Byrne and Pat McCormack, and the excellent defensive work of Jim Ryan, Michael



*Sarsfield Senior Hurling Team, winners of the Mid-Divisional Championship*



*Mr. Jim Maher, Chairman of Mid Board, presenting the trophy to Michael Dundon, captain of the Thurles Sarsfields team.*

Mahe and Michael Gleeson, and to the behind-the-scenes activities of such as Paddy Doyle and Mickey Bryne. Moycarkey's good run was inspired by Tom Doran, Willie Ryan, who carried a back injury into the final, Jack Bergin, John Flanagan and the Quigley Brothers.

### **THE COUNTY FINAL**

Subsequently, Sarsfields once more proved the division's most capable representatives in the county championship, failing to Kilruane McDonagh in the county final, while Holycross-Ballycahill emerged as the second team from the division with victories over Upperchurch-Drombane in a rather controversial tie, and then over Moycarkey-Borris in an amazing encounter which the latter appeared to have won in comfort when leading by fourteen points at half-time, but they disintegrated in the second half as Holycross stormed back to win by two points.

The newly-formed intermediate grade

produced its quota of good hurling with Clonmore and Boherlahan-Duala emerging from their section, and Sarsfields and Gortnahoe-Glengoole coming through from the second section. In the semi-finals, Boherlahan-Duala accounted for Sarsfields, while Clonmore, who had got through on the strength of a keenly-fought win over Loughmore, successfully overcame the challenge of Gortnahoe-Glengoole.

Having defeated Clonmore by a big margin in the league series, Boherlahan-Duala were confident of success in the final, but they reckoned not on the spirit of the Clonmore contingent, who applied themselves with tremendous dedication to their preparations for the final – a dedication that paid off handsomely, as they became the first winners of the championship in this new grade.

When it came to under-age competition, Loughmore-Castleiney were still the side to beat. They reached their

minor hurling title by defeating Sarsfields in the final at Holycross, and in the under-21 hurling championship, Clonmore were their victims in the final which was played at Thurles.

At the time of writing, the junior hurling final has to be played, and the contestants will be Boherlahan-Duala, who have been in the shake-up in this grade (formerly No. 2 junior hurling) for the past few years, and Thurles Fennellys.

Footballing affairs are not quite so clear-cut and at the time of writing only the minor football championship is decided, with Loughmore-Castleiney again the kingpins, having defeated Templemore once more in the final.

Any account of Mid affairs would be incomplete without acknowledging Loughmore's success in the county senior football championship, and the club's continued success in both codes and in various grades is a tribute to the remarkable dedication and enthusiasm of their players and officials. ■

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# TURAS NA NÓG

by PAT BURKE  
Emly Juvenile Hurling Captain

SUNDAY THE SIXTEENTH of September, nineteen seventy nine, will be marked as a special day in the lives of twenty-seven people because on that day the team of Emly juvenile hurlers and footballers set out for Croke Park to see the All-Ireland Football Finals. At eight o'clock on that moderate morning, after a special Mass, the coach nearly at capacity left Emly. The early birds of the parish waved as it left.

Being early on a Sunday morning, as what could be expected, the atmosphere was not very exciting but gradually it built up and on reaching Dublin everybody was undoubtedly at the top of their form. It was natural happiness on board that coach. The first house-of-call was O'Connell School for a meal which will leave memories on the minds of some of the young people. After the "eating" of that meal, it was time to pay a visit to Croke Park and most of the group were anti-Dublin except for some "traitors". The hawkers which sold Kerry hats and badges did very good business when the group were pursuing them. Then it was into the crowd, though not very big then, to enter Croke Park. The group went to the Cusack Stand where they occupied

twenty seven seats. They had a magnificent view of the minor match but that did not do any one any good as Kerry lost in a lively enough affair. The first thing that really created interest was the electronic scoreboard. It wasn't big enough to really catch the eye but when goals were scored, all attention was diverted in its direction.

Then what the whole crowd had been waiting for was on the brink of happening. Dublin and Kerry had run out and as they kicked around, Eoin "Bomber" Liston was already acclaimed as the match winner. When the match was young, there would have been a mighty cheer from our branch of Kerry supporters when Paddy Cullen made a cracking solo run, lost the ball, raced back about thirty yards and was nearly caught out like the previous year - the ball would have come down under the crossbar. All the excitement had gone when Kerry cracked in a few goals and won convincingly with fourteen men. After the match, the twenty seven Kerry supporters from Emly, stayed on in the stand, and cheered the Kerry men. The atmosphere then and there was to say the least very happy.

But the greatest moment of the trip came well after the match, for some,

when they were at the back of the Cusack Stand when nothing else but the Sam Maguire Cup appeared with some evidently delighted Kerry men. They let the lucky persons touch the majestic cup.

Then it was back to O'Connell School for a meal which left a dent in the excitement of most of the juveniles. When that meal was finally finished, and after some photos it was time to leave Dublin. When all were in the bus, it left, slowly, and it was now time to reflect on the return to the school. Over twenty-seven hat wearing Kerry men walking through the streets of Dublin provoked a reaction from the true "Dubs" and they hurled cheek amongst other things at the group. Obviously intent on gaining some sort of revenge, every Dublin car or person passing the bus, saw and heard an awful lot.

Everyone on that coach was undoubtedly very happy on their return to Emly. They could retire happy that night because Dublin had been beaten and most people in the coach saw to it they received their just share of punishment for their insulting remarks on Kerry men by handing them their own medicine back.



**EMLY UNDER-14 HURLERS AND FOOTBALLERS**

*County and West U-14 R and U-14 U-R Football Champions and West U-14 U-R Hurling Champions.*

*FRONT: M. Hanley, C. Speight, D. Crowe, D. Hannon, M. Murphy, J. O'Meara, R. English, B. Corcoran, T. Speight.*

*MIDDLE: P. Lonergan, P. Creamer, J. Russell, J. O'Dea, F. Cunningham, M. McGrath, M. O'Dwyer (Capt. Football), M. Cunningham, L. Bourke.*

*BACK: S. McManus, J. Healon, G. English, M. Mulhall, C. O'Brien, M. Corcoran, P. Burke (Capt. Hurling).*

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**EMLY U-16 —**

*FRONT: E. Crowe, S. McManus, P. Creamer, N. O'Meara, P. Burke, M. Corcoran.*

*MIDDLE: J. Hickey, M. Cunningham, A. Burke, L. Lonergan, J. Russell, A. English, M. O'Dwyer, P. Lonergan.*

*BACK: M. Joy (Capt.), M. Corcoran, T. J. O'Brien, J. McGrath, J. Buckley, L. Burke, S. O'Brien.*

# INTEGRATION SCORES IN EMLY

By SEAN MacMANUS

**I**N 1975 we started training the team which this year contested three County U-14 Finals, two in football and one in hurling, winning the two football titles. In that year, Bórd na nÓg an Roinn Thiar, under the guidance of its Chairman, Rev. Br. O'Grady, decided to run all championships on a league basis, a system still being used and while it has its drawbacks and demands a high degree of organisation it ensures that the young players get sufficient games which is an important factor when dealing with juveniles.

In the intervening years we did not win any football championships until this year, though we did win a few hurling titles at divisional level. Some of our football teams were as good if not better than this year's one though we were never able to make the breakthrough. I believe that winning a county title takes years of preparation, during which players build up confidence in themselves, learn to play together as a team and improve the various skills.

Assuming that young players are coached in the skills of football with particular emphasis on catching and kicking, the playing of games, either championship, challenge or parish leagues are of immense importance to them. Some will argue that young players have too many games, and while there is a certain amount of truth in the argument, I feel that youngsters enjoy the game situation and it certainly enables trainers to detect any weakness in their charges.

In training sessions the various skills should be identified for the players and then practised. Proper execution of a skill should be commented on. Likewise, when faults are in evidence, they should be pointed out and immediate efforts made to correct them. By adopting this approach even very young players will learn proper techniques and will be encouraged to improve their play.

## A SMALL PARISH

What we have achieved can be achieved by any club with the proper organisation and dedication. We have one of the smallest parishes in the county with a population of roughly one thousand. The number of players at our disposal is, consequently, limited. Even on this year's team we had to play two ten year olds which doesn't help in giving the team balance and strength.

We have the advantage that more than ninety per cent of our teams attend or have attended the only national school in the parish, a four-teacher one, which is centrally situated. Convenient to the school is the local G.A.A. field where the boys and girls play football, hurling and camogie during lunchtime and after school. They all commence playing when they are about seven years of age.

This has been a hectic year for our players and they have participated in some wonderful games. Special reference should be made to the two teams which opposed us in the two county football finals, that is, Eire Óg, Nenagh; and Borrisokane. These teams played football of a very high standard.

While we led Eire Óg from start to finish we were relieved when the final whistle blew and we were victorious by two points.

If any team feel disappointed it must surely be Borrisokane. They outplayed us completely leading by eight points at half-time. Their style of football was hard to counter as they kept using the wings, kicked intelligently and used the solo-run judiciously. Full credit must go, however, to our players who displayed a great will to win and persevered when all seemed lost. These traits are developed only after years of effort.

This article would not be complete without making reference to the fact that these players contested the Under-14 Urban Rural Hurling Final and while defeat was our lot against a very good Toomevara side our players showed they could swing a camán with the best. It must be remembered that we have only started hurling at juvenile level in the last five years. We have the unique distinction, at least in Tipperary, of playing three girls on our hurling team. Initially this was looked upon, by other clubs, as a gimmick but as anyone who has seen these girls play will testify, they are playing on merit alone.

Sna blianta atá romhainn beidh daoine ag caint faoi 1979 on bhliain a thaining an Pápa go dtí an tír seo ach sa pharóiste seo beidh siad ag caint chomh maith faoin bhfoireann fé 14 agus an beart a rinne siad – craobh an chontae a bhuachaint. Is fíor an sean fhocal “mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sé.” ■

## Genevieve English writes . .

**In 1975 five of us girls who were playing camogie challenged for our places on the boys' juvenile team. The boys did not spare us but we stood up to them and won our places on merit.**

**Meeting other teams was a thrilling experience for us especially when we found that we could hold our own with the boys, and help our club to many victories.**

**This year 1979 has been a great year for us, and in the county final we gave Toomevara a rare fright. We enjoyed playing with the boys, and there was a wonderful spirit in the team. We got no sympathy from our opponents because we were girls but we did not flinch when they lashed hard. The referees did not give us special treatment either, and we admired them for that.**

**We will miss hurling with the boys in future.**

**The girls who played hurling are: Genevieve English, Martina Ryan, Miriam Mulhall, Cora O'Brien, and Kara Moloney.**



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**ARRAVAL ROVERS —**

*BACK (Left to Right) — T. Logan, D. Barlow, J. Lowry, J. Haslam, J. O'Donoghue, S. Howe, M. O'Donnell, S. O'Connell, K. O'Toole.*

*FRONT (Left to Right) — P. Lohan, J. Cullhane, M. Daly, D. Quinlan, J. Lowry, P. Carri, S. Donovan, J. Carley.*

**E**ACH Division is covered by their own separate report, outlining all the activities within their areas. Last year we stated that standards at Juvenile level were continuing to rise, and they have continued to do so during this year. This refers particularly to the under-12 age group in both hurling and football. There is a falling off in the under-16 competitions. This must be a great concern for us all and should be the subject of a lot of discussion in the future.

#### CLUB DEVELOPMENT

This should be the priority for the GAA in Tipperary, and we must start immediately.

Some clubs do not field any teams in Juvenile competitions. Perhaps these clubs need help from divisional level. Maybe it is finance that is the problem, but whatever it is we must be aware of it and having acknowledged the problems we should set about rectifying them.

I am sure there is not any club in the county who could say that they do not need development. We must aim for higher standards. In his address at the 1978 annual Convention Mr. Willie Carroll outlined the following requisites in order to have a successful Juvenile club:-

1. A separate Juvenile Committee in each club.
2. The playing of Parish or Street Leagues.
3. The involvement of schools within the parish.
4. All playing members to be involved not alone in the playing of the games, but also in the social and cultural activities of the club.
5. The holding of Scór competitions within each club.
6. The involvement of the youth with the club all the year round.

I would add to that the importance of getting a dedicated committee together in each parish, and that present and former senior players should be enticed to help in the coaching of our young players. They would help out if they were asked.

It is the duty of Bord na nÓg to provide players for future county teams and in that aim we must all unite in the coming decade to gain back some of our losses of the past ten years.

#### SCHOOLS AND CHRISTIAN BROTHERS

It is a great pleasure for me to report the admirable work being done at schools throughout the county for our games. In particular the Irish Christian Brothers are to be complimented for their work in many towns throughout Tipperary. I have no doubt but that their great efforts will be soon rewarded.

#### HURLEYS, SLIOTHARS, ETC.

The Bord through its treasurer, Dinny Hogan, is supplying hurleys, sliothars and footballs to clubs and schools. The demand for these has risen dramatically over the past two years. Last year some 7,000 hurleys were supplied and this year the figure will be higher. The quality of the hurleys is now top standard.

#### COMPETITIONS DURING THE YEAR

##### Under-14 Hurling and Football

In the under-14 grade it was Toomevara's year in hurling

## BORD NA nÓG

A REVIEW OF 1979

and Emly's in football. What a high standard both these teams set.

Toomevara's record was very impressive – having won the County Feile na nGael Blitz in June they went to Kilkenny and went through to the final to suffer the ultimate defeat of all Tipp teams this year at the hand of Cork – a one point defeat. Toomevara were proud standard bearers for our county. They won the Rural and Urban-Rural hurling titles and also the Munster and All-Ireland Community Games titles. Emly had a great year on the football scene but before we deal with that just a reminder that they were runners up to Toomevara in the under-14 hurling final in one of the best games of the year at Holycross.

The west champions played an exceptionally high standard of football right through the Rural and Urban-Rural competitions. Nevertheless, their winning margins in the two competitions were small. Their game versus Nenagh in the Urban Rural final at Thurles was a thriller and they emerged victorious by two points. Borrisokane gave them their biggest fright of the season in the Rural final when a goal in the last minute saw Emly through by a single point. This goal was sufficient to also earn them a trip to the All-Ireland Football final on Turas na nÓg.

Congratulations Toomevara and Emly.

##### Under-12 Hurling and Football

My greatest memory of the under 12 hurling competition takes me back to a beautiful July evening at Semple Stadium. Both semi-finals were fixed for this afternoon. The setting was perfect. The portable goals were fitted with nets. The red jersied Durlas Óg players raced out on to the field with the North Champions represented by that great club Kilruane McDonagh. Sammy Ryan was the referee. The game started and from that until the final whistle all those present witnessed a great game with extremely skilful hurling for that age group. Durlas Óg won by a few goals.

We all thought that the first game was a great one. Out raced the boys from St. Mary's, Clonmel, and West Champions Arravale Rovers. The towering figure in the centre was referee Liam Ryan. This was undoubtedly one of the greatest spectacles of juvenile hurling in this county for some time. What a pity there had to be a looser and it was Arravale Rovers by one point. These young lads have plenty of time on their side. A notable feature of the evenings entertainment was the lack of pressure placed on the players by mentors and this is only as it should be at this age level, also notable was the fact that Christian Brothers was involved with three of the teams.

Durlas Óg and St. Mary's met in the final at Golden on a pale wet Friday evening in late July. The weather marred the game and Durlas Óg a club which was formed earlier this year took their first county title. (A separate account of this club is featured elsewhere in this yearbook).

If St. Mary's were to be denied their first hurling title they may not have long to wait as most of their team will again play in the 1980 competition.

Clonmel Commercial including a good number of the hurlers of St. Mary's had a great victory in the under-12 football competition, beating Durlas Óg.

The standard of football throughout this competition was very high. A word to our Senior and Minor selectors – good talent is on the way please be vigilant!

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# Mid Division Bord na nÓg 1979

AT THE ANNUAL CONVENTION of the Bord held in the early part of 1979 a genuine wish was expressed by all that the year would prove to be a most successful one for the Bord. This I am happy to relate was the result of all clubs in the division working in harmony for the good of our juveniles and juvenile games. It has been a year free of investigations, objections and suspensions and for this due praise must be given to our hard working juvenile committees at club level. The year saw the resurgence of interest in our juvenile games in the cradle town in the form of Dúrlas Óg and I am sure that all Gaels will be happy in the knowledge that now at last the birthplace of the association is proving to be a very active unit at juvenile level. If 1979 can be seen as a successful year for Durlas Óg then I am sure that Moycarkey Borris can also be justly proud of their achievements during the year.

When mentioning these two clubs I do not wish to detract from the achievements and efforts of such clubs as Loughmore Castleiney Eire Óg, Templemore and Moyne Templetuohy who down through the years have carried the banner of the division with such honour. The standard of play in all competitions was as high as other years, pitches continue to be well prepared and shortened for the Under-12 competitions. A special word of thanks is due to those people who give of their time to ensure that venues and pitches are both made available to and in perfect condition for our

games. Also our thanks are due to that slowly dwindling species, our referees for ensuring that our games are played in such a sporting fashion.

## U/12

This was the age group dominated by Durlas Óg by defeating a gallant Moycarkey Borris team in the football final and then accounting for county champions Eire Óg Templemore after a replay in the hurling final. In the special U/12 football competition Loughmore/Castleiney accounted for Durlas

Óg "B" in a most enjoyable game.

## U/14

Moycarkey Borris proved to be kingpins of this age group by defeating Moyne-Templetuohy in the Rural hurling final and Holycross-Ballycahill in the Rural football final. They were also successful in the Urban/Rural hurling final when they overcame the Durlas Óg challenge, who in turn captured the Urban/Rural football title by defeating Eire Óg Templemore. In the final of the Feile na nGael blitz Eire Óg Templemore had to overcome a gallant Holycross/Ballycahill team in extra time.

## U/16

The football final was contested between Eire Óg Templemore and Moyne Templetuohy with the Templemore team taking the honours and in the hurling final which proved to be a showcase for all the hurling skills, Moycarkey Borris captured their fourth divisional title in overcoming a gallant Holycross/Ballycahill team.

Eamon Walsh of Lough/Rahoelty proved to be a most promising hurler in capturing the divisional skills competition.

*Tom O'Dowd, Secretary*

(continued)

## Under-16 Hurling and Football

As we go to press both these competitions are unfinished. In the hurling, Moycarkey/Borris are through to the final having defeated a gallant Knockavilla Kickhams team in the semi-final. Their opponents to be either Nenagh or St. Mary's.

## Divisional Champions 1979

**Feile Na nGael** - South: St. Mary's; West: Knockavilla/Kickhams; Mid: Templemore; North: Toomevara.

**Under-12 Hurling** - South: St. Mary's; West: Arravale Rovers; Mid: Durlas Óg; North: Kilruane.

**Under-12 Football** - South: Commercial; West: Arravale Rovers; Mid: Durlas Óg; North: Roscrea.

**Under-14 Rural Hurling** - South: Killenaule; West: Knockavilla/Kickhams; Mid: Moycarkey; North: Toomevara.

**Under-14 Urban/Rural Hurling** - South: St. Mary's; West: Emly; Mid: Moycarkey; North: Toomevara.

**Under-14 Rural Football** - South: Fethard; West: Emly; Mid: Moycarkey; North: Borrisokane.

**Under-14 Urban/Rural Football** - South: St. Nicholas; West: Emly; Mid: Durlas Óg; North: Nenagh.

**Under-16 Hurling** - South: St. Mary's; West: Knockavilla/Kickhams; Mid: Moycarkey; North: Nenagh.

**Under-16 Football** - West: Emly; Mid: Templemore; North: Nenagh.

## COUNTY CHAMPIONS 1979

Feile Na nGael: Toomevara.

Under-12 Hurling: Durlas Óg.

Under-12 Football: Clonmel Commercial.

Under-14 Rural Hurling: Toomevara.

Under-14 Urban/Rural Hurling: Toomevara.

Under-14 Rural Football: Emly.

Under-14 Urban/Rural Football: Emly.

Under-16 Hurling: Unfinished.

Under-16 Football: Unfinished.

## PUBLICITY

I would ask each club to use the local papers to publicise our games. Better use of the media is needed to promote our Juvenile activities.

## SYMPATHY

### The late Michael Prior, Borrisoleigh

It is with deep regret that we sympathise with the relatives of the late Michael Prior, Secretary of North Tipp Board Na nÓg. His untimely death in June left a great void in Juvenile affairs. He will be sadly missed in his beloved Borrisoleigh and County of Tipperary. He was a real "Juvenile's Man".

An dheis De go raibh a anam.

## COUNTY BORD NA nÓG MEMBERS 1979

**Chairman**, Eddie Ryan (Boherlahan); **Treasurer**, Dinny Hogan (Thurles); **Secretary/PRO**, Liam McGrath (Holycross); **County Board Rep.**, John Ryan (Moycarkey).

**North** - Rev. Fr. Seymour, Borrisokane; Peadair Cummins, Borrisoleigh; Tom Mulcahy, Nenagh.

**South** - Patsy O'Halloran, Kilsheelan; Willie Carroll, St. Mary's; Patrick Forrestal, St. Mary's.

**Mid** - Rev. Bro. Kiely, Templemore; Tom O'Dowd, Durlas Óg; Phil Lowry, Holycross; Jim Farrelly, Templemore.

**West** - Rev. Bro. Ryan, Cashel; Ml. Maxwell, Clonoulty; Sammy Ryan, Golden; Liam Dwyer, Anacarty. ■

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## West Bórd na nÓg

WEST TIPP BÓRD NA NÓG competitions got under way on 2nd April 1979 with U12 football. This competition was most exciting all through to the final which was contested by Arravale Rovers and Knockavilla Kickhams in Bansha on 8th June. This was a great final with victory going to Arravale Rovers who were defeated in the Co. semi final by St. Mary's, Clonmel.

The next competition was U-12 hurling which started on 29th April, 1979, and was a great success all through to the final which was contested by Anavale Rovers and Cappawhite. Again Anavale Rovers were victorious and gave a great display in the County semi final before being defeated by a great Dúrlas Óg team.

The UR14 football competition started in 22/6/'79 and was very keenly contested up to the final between Emly and Cashel which was played in Bansha. After a great game Emly were winners and went on to beat Carrick-on-Suir in the county semi final at Golden and became county champions when they beat Nenagh at Thurles.

The U14 Rural football was the next competition to get under way. The final of this competition was played at Sean Treacy Park Tipperary on 18th July between Emly and Golden. Emly again were victorious and went on to beat Moycarkey in the county semi final and became county champions again when they beat Borrisokane in a great county final at Holycross.

The U14 Rural hurling competition provided us with a feast of hurling all through with Emly and Kickhams reaching the final. Kickhams won this final after a great encounter and were beaten in the county final by a great Toomevara team.

The U14 Urban Rural competition

proved equally as good as the previous one, with Emly and Kickhams again reaching the final. This time Emly were winners who went on to be beaten in the county final by this tremendous Toomevara team.

The U16 hurling was the next competition on the scene and provided us with some great encounters. The final was played in Golden between Clonaulty and Kickhams before a huge attendance. It is reckoned to be the greatest final ever played in West Tipperary for this competition, with Kickhams winning by two points. Kickhams went on to loose to Moycarkey in the county semi final after a great game.

The final competition of the year the U16 football got going and after some terrific contests the final took place in Dundrum between Clonoultly and Emly and after a good robust game Emly became West champions and so ended West Tipp Bord na Óg competitions for 1979. In conclusion a special word of praise to all our referees who carried out all their assignments to the last, and also a special word of praise and thanks to all our clubs and team managers whose co-operation was only just fantastic.

Michéal Ó Meiscill Runáí

## Cumann Luith Chleas Gael na-nÓg Coisde Condae Thiobrad Arann Theas

### OFFICERS

Chairman: William Carroll (St. Mary's); Vice-Chairman: Seamus Maher (Fr. Sheehys); Sec/Treas/PRO: Patriac O'Halloran (Kilsheelan); Co. Board Rep. (U/R): Patrick Forristal (St. Mary's); Co. Board Rep. (Rural): Donal McCarthy (Ballylooby); South Board Rep.: Patrick Forristal (St. Mary's).

### 1979 championships

Grade	Winners	Runners-up	Venue
12 Hurling	St. Mary's (A)	Carrick-on-Suir	Kilsheelan
12 Football	Commercials	Fethard	Kilsheelan
14 Hurling (Rural)	Killenaule	Ballybacon/Grange	Kilsheelan
14 Football (Rural)	Fethard	Killenaule	Clonmel
14 Hurling (U/Rural)	Swan	St. Mary's	Kilsheelan
14 Football (U/Rural)	St. Nicholas	Commercials (A)	Kilsheelan
16 Hurling (Replay)	St. Mary's	Ballingarry	Killenaule
16 Football	Commercials	Cahir	Kilsheelan

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# CHRISTY RING : THE TIPP CONNECTION

**T**HE responsibility of paying tribute to the late Christy Ring in the Tipperary Yearbook has been thrust upon me. I feel like being asked to match his greatness on the hurling field. The year 1979 had its stars and outstanding happenings on the playing fields but it will be remembered with great sadness as the year the hurling wizard of Cloyne was taken from us. When the news broke on that first Friday in March it had a stunning effect. Memories flooded the mind. Crowds gathering at Thurles, Limerick, Croke Park, Cork and elsewhere to see the artist perform again. The chat among the crowds – who is going to hold him? Then the appearance of the Cork team. The sturdy frame of the maestro giving the last encouraging word to a team-mate. Many thousands of pairs of eyes watching his every move. A thought for whoever was responsible for him that day.

In Tipperary, where hurling is loved and cherished as a game of a great many skills, Christy Ring satisfied the critic that he was the yard-stick by which performances were judged. I can remember the early Forties as I thrilled to the sheer artistry of this great player, having cycled to Thurles and watched from the Killinan end – what a day's enjoyment. Then, towards the end of the decade I was honoured by the Tipp selectors and found myself in a Tipperary jersey helping a Tipp backline to contain five Cork forwards plus Christy Ring. Tommy Doyle

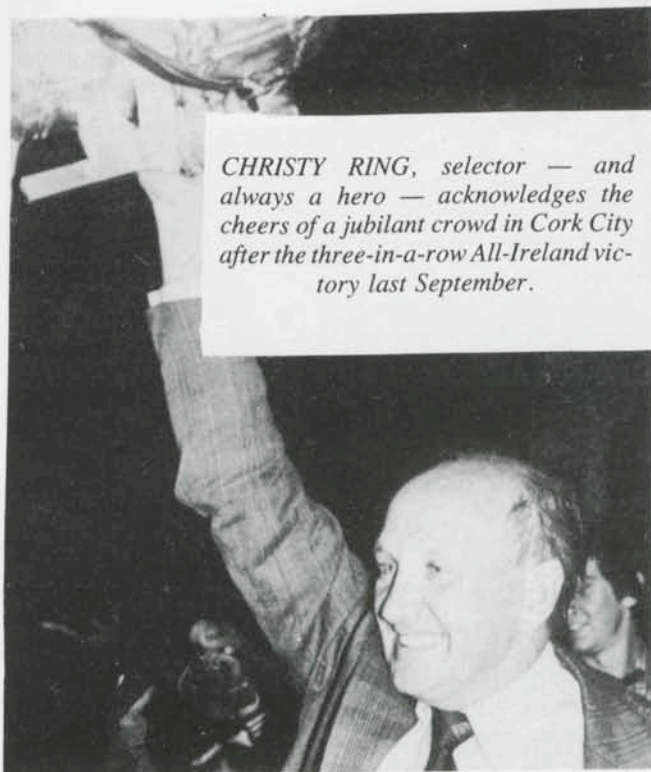


By Pat Stakelum

and the late Tommy Purcell had more success than many who tried to match his skills. They were hence put on a pedestal and regarded as supermen. I was discussing Ring recently with John Doyle and he decided the moment of truth when backs and forwards found each other immediately after the throw-in and you found "your man" staring at you with those steel-blue eyes, and no word passed between you. Fierce determination was the message and when you searched yourself for the grit to match him your years of training and dedication were called to answer the challenge. Christy set the pace. Those who played hurling during the Ring era will readily admit that he raised the game to a new plane as a spectacle. The fact that he was there when you beat them made the victory all the sweeter.

Tommy Doyle's name is often linked with the great Corkman and epic tussles recalled. He had this to say of the experience: "He had something no other player had. He was strong, fast, fiercely determined, and a hurling brain second to none. When you were given the job of marking him you felt elated, despite the size of the task. As the battle went on and you had maybe some degree of success you felt inspired – as if you could go on forever. No other opponent could have the same effect".

Mickey Byrne was another team-mate who came into conflict with the Glen man and his views, I feel, are worth recording: "To me Christy Ring was the complete hurler. He had everything – skill, guts, a terrific will to win. It was hard to believe that a man so ruthless on the field could be so shy and reserved off it – a real Jekyll and Hyde. He was truly the maestro, Mr. Hurling. I can recall many great tussles between ourselves and Cork, when no quarter was asked or given, but when it was all over, Ringey and I were the best of friends. I considered it an honour to have played on him and with him, and I was proud to have him as a close friend when our hurling days were over. Even yet, it's hard to believe he's gone. When we go to Cork for a game, or when Cork come to Thurles, I still expect to see him ramble over with the familiar handshake, a chat and a joke. Hurling is the poorer for his passing." ■



*CHRISTY RING, selector — and always a hero — acknowledges the cheers of a jubilant crowd in Cork City after the three-in-a-row All-Ireland victory last September.*

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NOT SO VERY LONG ago "togging out in the ditch" was not an uncommon feature of our games, and the phrase was widely used to ridicule the lack of progress in the association in supplying modern amenities for our players. Even at an important and historic venue like Thurles one could see some of the hurling immortals washing in a barrel of cold water after a game or holding their feet under an outdoor tap.

Those times are left behind and are only a nostalgic memory of the great days and the hard men of the past. If fellows opt to tog out under the ditch today they do it with an air of boyish bravado, knocking a kick out of doing the unusual when others are following the soft line indoors.

The call to modernise and to provide the amenities in keeping with the needs of the present has gained an enthusiastic response from the clubs so that we are going through a period of exceptional development of grounds and social amenities.

We may be apt to take for granted the great changes that have taken place, and those that are in progress or being planned for the near future. It would be a mistake to overlook the thought, the planning, the effort and the marshalling of support which are done by a club in promoting a project of development. Nor should we fail to realise the benefit which comes to a club, and indeed to the whole community, when all combine and work together to achieve a common goal.

Tipperary has not been dragging its feet in this forward move; on the contrary, it must be classed in the front rank

## FROM THE DITCH TO CENTRAL HEATING

SEAMUS O RIAIN

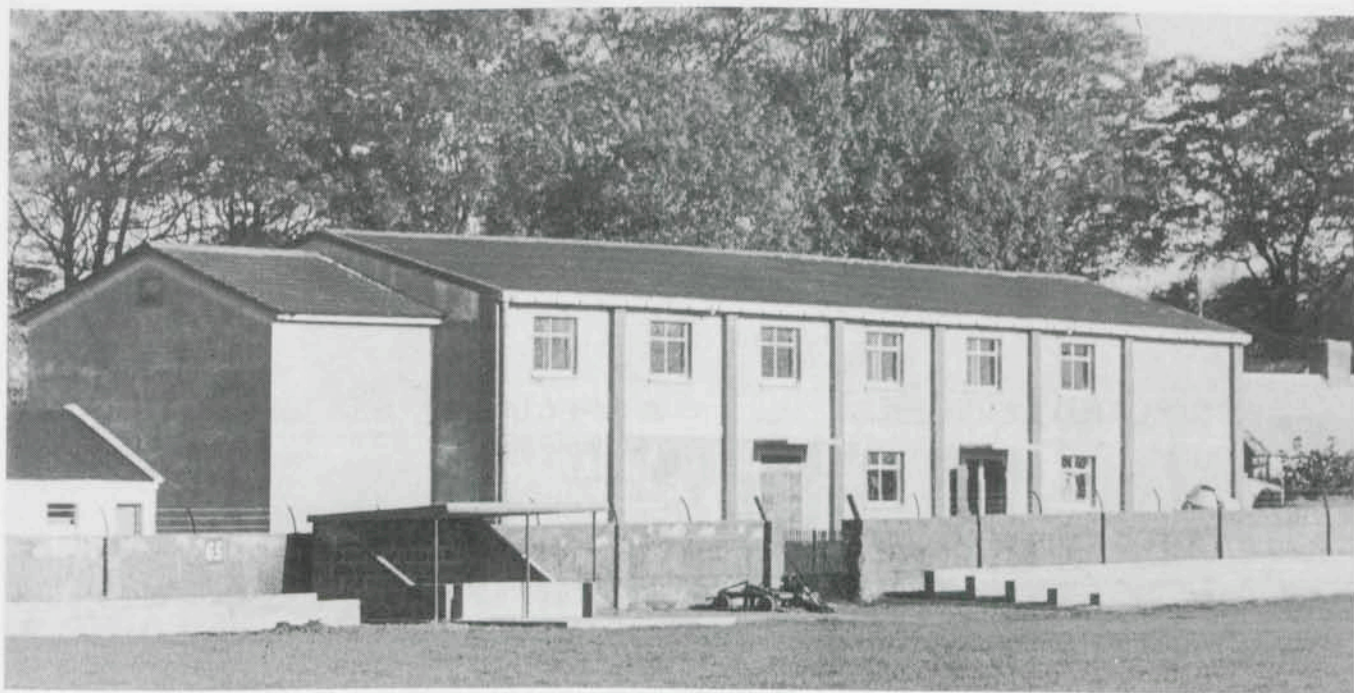
of developing counties. Many of our clubs have been fortunate that the need for a playing field of their own was understood by a former generation and the want supplied by grasping the opportunity of acquiring one when the chance was offered. Others such as Lorrha, Burgess, Sologhead, Annacarty and Sean Treacys, undaunted by the rising price of land, have recently purchased new grounds and are pushing ahead to develop them and to build suitable dressing rooms. Only a small minority of our clubs are lacking in those essentials and each year sees the number being reduced as new grounds are acquired.

A centre as a meeting place for recreation and social events is another step on the way to enabling a club to play its full role as an agent for good in the community. But it is a big step and needs to be carefully planned. Each club must first identify its own needs which will depend on its area, whether it is urban or rural, and taking account of whatever provisions are already available in the locality. Careful costing and budgeting are essential in order to avoid the danger of overstepping the capacity to meet the financial commitments. Failure in this way would result in the centre becoming a burden on the club instead of being a benefit. Such careful planning is not

beyond the ability of any well-organised club. It is the kind of preparation any sensible person would make in dealing with one's own private affairs.

Club officials thinking on these lines would do well to consult with the people in charge of existing centres in Tipperary and outside. In the towns, Clonmel and Thurles Sarsfields have been in operation for a few years, and of the rural clubs Bansha, Moneygall and Kilruane's Fr. O'Meara Memorial Hall are examples of three different types, each with its own distinctive features. Roscrea club have almost completed a splendid new centre in St. Cronan's Park, and the park in general is getting a face lift which will make the entire complex worthy of this outstanding hurling club.

Templederry, who are enjoying their year of triumph as North Intermediate Champions, are putting the finishing touches to their new centre and handball court in the field which they purchased a few years ago. They prove, if proof is needed, that involvement in development work which demands a lot of time and energy on the part of club members, need not necessarily militate against top class performance on the field of play. In fact it is more than likely that they are mutually advantageous. There may be a lesson here.



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# MY FIRST ALL-IRELAND

By GEORGE RYAN

EVERY REFEREE'S AMBITION is to referee an All-Ireland Final at some stage of his career. This wonderful occasion came to me, this year, 1979.

The day of the 9th August, 1979, I first heard of my appointment. My first reaction was one of delight, but this was tempered by the responsibility that rested on my shoulders. It was clear to me what preparation I had to undertake. It meant I had to train four nights a week for four weeks. It also meant that I had to prepare myself mentally. This was made easier for me because of the wonderful team I had built up with me, since I started to referee back in 1974. I am, of course referring to my umpires – Michael Collins, Connie Lorigan, John Slattery and Michael Maguire and my two linesmen – Eamonn Buckley and Nioclás English, both of whom, unfortunately I could not have with me on All-Ireland Final Day. These four weeks of preparation, I must say I enjoyed immensely.

Eventually, All-Ireland weekend arrived. On Saturday night, I was present at a function in Dublin, kindly organised by the National Referee's Social Committee, at which all the referees appointed to take charge of the 1979 finals were in attendance. I was presented with a beautiful Belleek Plate, on which were engraved the heads of the founder members of the association. Presented also to me, was a referee's outfit and travelling bag, sponsored by

O'Neill's of Dublin. This night finished early for me, as it meant early to bed, to rest for the occasion of my life as a referee.

The big day arrived and contrary to expectation, I found myself relatively relaxed. A final get-together with my umpires and we were on our way to Croke Park. I sat and enjoyed the Minor Final, until it was time to get ready for action. I must at this stage, thank all my referee colleagues for their kind good wishes to me as I prepared in the dressing room. It wasn't long until Clem Foley, the man in charge of referees' welfare in Croke Park, told me that it was time for me to take the field. I did not know what to expect when I would go out there to do my part, as referee, on such a big occasion. It was only when I stood in the centre of Croke Park, that the enormity of the occasion suddenly struck me. I felt a little tense and anxious to get on with the job. We had the usual photographs taken; the parade and our National Anthem, all of which is part of the great day, but naturally is a trifle trying for both the players and referee. The day itself was disappointing weather-wise for everybody, but particularly for me.

The game was on – the cheer of the crowds – the ifs and buts were plenty – the ball swung from left to right – and I must say, I was enjoying every minute of it. Half-time arrived before I knew where I was. One thing I did know for

sure was that all players and myself were very wet. The half-time discussions took place, like all other games. I was very pleased with myself. The second-half started with sunshine. The hurling and the pace quickened. Galway came very close to Kilkenny; and for my part, it was still every bit as enjoyable. Noel Lane got possession on the end line, went goalwards and shot a wonderful goal. It was at this point, that it was brought home to me, that I was refereeing the All-Ireland Final. The sound that echoed in my ears at this moment will always remain with me. It felt like that all Galway, plus Croke Park was going to converge down on top of me. I can recall saying to myself, "I am refereeing an All-Ireland Final, forget about the crowd, go and finish the job". That I did, to the best of my ability.

Before I conclude, I must pay a special tribute to all the players, who played under my control on that day. All their names will be cherished always by me. I relaxed that night – saw a re-run of the match on Monday, was entertained to a luncheon with both teams in Jury's Hotel, organised by the G.A.A. This was a function which I also enjoyed. In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to say a special "thank you" to my wife, Clair, for her dedication and encouragement, to help me prepare for this great occasion and for the patience she has shown since I started to referee six years ago. ■



FRONT ROW (Left to Right) — Eamonn Buckley, George Ryan, Nicholas English.  
BACK ROW: Connie Lorigan, Michael Collins, Michael McGuire, John Slattery.



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# Impressions of Camogie from the Inside

By Maol Muire Tynan

IT WAS DOWN IN MONEYGALL that Tipperary made their first conscious strides for Croke Park. We had all the ingredients for a coup on our side – Mother Luck, plenty of time for training and a strong bond of sisterhood in the team. The girls from Co. Down realised our potential and we knew we could beat them in the first round of the Championship.

Nevertheless, it was not the simplest task, and though we won convincingly on one of the warmest days of the Summer, it was clear that our thinking was in need of an upheaval. The team was more than slightly unfit, and that had to be rectified. But we left Moneygall with the firm philosophy that defeat was not a God-given affliction that Tipperary had to bear indefinitely.

Tipperary needed one fundamental weapon in the Championship conflict – a good trainer. Without casting any aspersions whatsoever on former coaches, we were fortunate enough to win the dedication of Timmy Delaney, from Borrisoleigh. One of the most talented, skillful hurlers that the County ever produced, he saw no limitations to our fight for an All-Ireland victory.

## TRAINING

His optimism permeated through the whole team, and though the seemingly endless nights of training were torturous, we slowly overcame the characteristic flaws that restrained us in former years. The first and foremost was simply lack of confidence.

Apart from building up morale in the team, Timmy concentrated on analysing tactical movements, weeding out basic blunders like overplaying the ball and looking for a high degree of physical fitness.

The panel was selected from a large sprawling area, and with five girls

working in Dublin, training sessions were made all the more difficult. Despite these restrictions, we came together three nights per week in the build-up to the All-Ireland, but first we had to face Limerick, a highly trained and experienced side.

To say we were apprehensive is a gross understatement. They had been our bogey team for years and they were aware of our anxiety when we travelled to their home ground in Bruree.

## SEMI-FINAL

Before the game, in the thick tension of the dressing-room, Timmy Delaney delivered one of the most inspiring pep-talks the team had ever heard. He reminded us that we were just one hour away from Croke Park in this semi-final. And we went into the pitch knowing that we had the capability and confidence to win.

In retrospect, it must have been one of our finest games, because we played as a unit that remained unruffled despite the intense pressure levied against us by a hard Limerick squad. They had annihilated us in 1978 in Roscrea and we dreaded a repetition of that performance.

But we were two points ahead at half-time and in need of an urgent score to keep us on terra firma. Characteristically, Limerick would not let us off unpunished, but we maintained our lead until the final whistle.

The back-line deserve most of the credit for that victory. Maura Hackett was superb at wing back and her long clearances up the wings kept the game open. On the other side, Rose Ryan, from Roscrea gave a similar performance, forcing her way up-field into the attack. Though Monica Butler suffered a head-injury in the first half, herself and goalkeeper Mary O'Brien rebuffed all the efforts of Limerick's impressive forwards.

Mary made some of her finest saves that day, and her coolness in the net encouraged the whole team. Siobhan McDonnell got a bad leg injury in the first 25 minutes also, and was limping throughout the second half when she came back at full-forward. But she set up so many opportunities for scores that it was clear she would remain there, should we get to the final.

Limerick's Carrie Clancy, who was an active player for about fifteen years, retired last year, and the team obviously missed her. As their practical philosopher on the side-line, she urged them on, making changes that helped to revitalise the already flagging side. So, we left Bruree in a mixed state of delight and disbelief.

## LEAD-UP . . .

Tipperary had not been in an All-Ireland Final since 1965. The controversial climax of that year had left camogie in a demoralised position, because at the final whistle, the referee had declared Tipperary the winners. Later, in the jubilation of the dressing-room, it was announced that the result was incorrect and in fact Dublin had won.

Since then, victories had been few and far between. It was not until March 1977 that the game took on a fresh perspective, in the winning of the first National League Final. We travelled, as underdogs, to Wexford and drew. The replay in Semple Stadium resulted in an exhilarating win, and at least we knew we



*BACK ROW (Left to Right) — Margaret Hayes, Deirdre Lane, Sheila Delaney, Mary O'Brien, Margaret Brophy, Bernie Feehan, Ann Ralph, Pauline Starr, Monica Butler.*

*FRONT ROW (Left to Right) — Ann Gleeson, Agnes Brophy, Mona Quigley, Mary Griffin, Maureen Maher, Maol Mhire Tynan, Rosie Ryan, Maura Hackett, Ban McDonnell.*

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had the power to overcome the run of bad fortune.

But 1979 was to be our year of total rebirth. We had beaten Down and Limerick and were keeping close tabs on the other participants in the Championship. Kilkenny were the subject of our most concentrated scrutiny. A final against the black and amber was not the most pleasant thought.

They travelled to Antrim where the hosts gave them the soundest beating they had ever received. Even though the amazing forward, Angela Downey, jotted up three goals, they fell apart like the two dollar suit in the hands of the Northern girls. Our work was laid out for us, but we were confident that the O'Duffy would be ours in the second week of September.

The hard slog of training that left us dying a few months earlier, had become much more bearable. We were at the peak of our fitness and the biggest fear lay in nervousness. Continually inspired by Timmy Delaney, we became increasingly optimistic in the face of the final test.

#### FINAL . . .

We had not weathered the League beyond the first round with Cork, but that was just an inconsequential memory in the light of an All-Ireland. It is the ultimate in victory, the day to look back on when the hurley is gathering dust over the mantelpiece, and the faded photograph is the subject of bright gazes from aspiring young novices.

September 9th, our day of destiny. We went to Croke Park, full of desire for the O'Duffy Trophy. Though you belong to a team on the seemingly endless plain of the pitch, there is an incongruous sense

of isolation. The mind boggles with futile questions. Will I be the one to let them down? What'll I do if she scores on me? Will I run out of wind? A million niggling doubts attack.

But, "sense must prevail", you remind yourself. After all, it's only an All-Ireland . . . and the whole process begins again. The great comfort lies in the fact that everyone else feels the same, and the supporters nestling in the Hogan Stand are there to cheer, not to jeer.

Again Timmy Delaney came up trumps in his advice. Newly-wed Maureen Maher, his wife Sheila and Maol Muire Tynan were to keep the ball rolling on the ground for the first ten minutes. Deirdre Lane, a splendid centre-back, was to keep her clearances to the wings when possible and the two wing-forwards, Mona Quigley and Mary Griffin should hold play across the goalmouth.

Agnes Brophy, playing her first season ever with the Senior side, was to play her own game, and had proved herself highly dangerous at centre-forward. She was extremely good at grabbing a high ball, and a quick dash into attack. Most importantly, all the girls, from centre-field inwards were to try for points and the goals would naturally follow.

#### GAME . . .

Everything went according to plan, and we beat Antrim all over the field in the first twenty-five minutes. The defence was faultless. Centre-field was on top, and the forwards were playing havoc with the Northern backline. But, the scores were not registering on the scoreboard, because Heaven had sent

the opposition a goalkeeper in Carol.

She was unbeatable, and in the second half her team began to play as though they knew we couldn't get the ball into the net. They crept up on our two-point lead and went ahead by a goal, a lead they clung to until the end. Nevertheless, we can find solace in the fact that we did not give up, and a three-point defeat was not unbearable.

Antrim has produced a great team despite the adversities of the troubles in the North. They deserve their victory and we were able to congratulate them with sincerity.

#### AFTERMATH . . .

The O'Duffy Cup eluded us once more, but it was one great year, and a season that we all learned from. At the very least, we were put in the top bracket of the Camogie hierarchy.

Five of the team have secured places on the Munster team. Monica Butler, Mary O'Brien, Maura Hackett, Siobhan McDonnell and Deirdre Lane formed almost half of the Province's side this year, which is a very healthy representation from one County.

As the year moves on and the disappointment of Croke Park wears thinner, one aspiration remains strong . . . that trainer, girls and selectors will stay together for another day when our supporters will not be downcast.

#### THANKS TO SPONSORS

We wish to record our sincere thanks to the following sponsors who came to our aid during the year: Joseph O'Connor, Nenagh Shopping Centre, Track Suits; John Kennedy, The Ragg, Thurles, Set of Jerseys; John Carey, Rears Cross, Newport, Set of Socks. ■



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# THE COLLEGES SCENE IN TIPPERARY

THE AMOUNT OF SUCCESS achieved by Tipperary schools in Munster Colleges competitions for 1978-79 to say the least was not very impressive. None of the premier Munster trophies came to Tipperary during the course of the year.

The Harty Cup which is the most prestigious trophy in Colleges hurling had only two contestants from the Premier County holders Templemore C.B.S. and former specialists Thurles C.B.S. Hopes were high in Templemore that the local boys would make it two in a row but following a facile quarter-final win over De La Salle, Waterford, they had to surrender their title to St. Flannan's, Ennis, in the semi-final after a rousing contest. It was a game that Templemore could have won but the midfield strength of the Clare boys pulled them through on the score 2-8 to 0-9. St. Flannan's went on afterwards to win the Harty and All-Ireland titles which was ample compensation for the disappointment for the previous year.

Thurles C.B.S. had a very young team last year and they went out in the first round to Colaiste Christí Rí, Cork. But they were not dispondent as they are in the process of team building and I am expecting them to make a big impact on the Harty competition for 1979-80. Now that my good friend Br. Joe Perkins is at the helm the return of the Harty to the famed Mid-Tipp nursery is a distinct possibility. The good work of Br. Kinsella there over the last few years could reap its reward in 1980.

Throughout Tipperary you yearly hear disappointment at the fate of the Co. Minor team. How is it that we are not able to beat Cork? On that point I think that Cork schools annually produce about six good Harty Cup teams which affords a wide selection of well-trained boys to the Co. Minor selectors. I think that the Tipperary schools will have to provide more than two Harty teams if we hope to counteract that imbalance to any great degree. I suppose the size of the schools in Tipperary does not enable more to compete in the Harty Cup.

## CANON FITZGERALD CUP

The Canon Fitzgerald Cup which is for all post-primary schools in the county was a great success again. Fifteen schools participated with Newport V.S. emerging winners of the weak section for the first time but in the final proper they had to give way to Thurles C.B.S. who had a very good team. This competition has been a great success over the years and a player who was on the first Canon Fitzgerald Cup winning combination from Borrisokane V.S. was this year honoured by the All-Stars selectors, namely Pat Moloughney.

This year's final was played at Nenagh under very adverse conditions. For much of the first half it looked a distinct possibility that Newport would make

*Sean Ó Costagáin*

history by taking the Cup for the first time but in the second half the greater all-round strength of the Thurles C.B.S. boys carried the day. This is the first hurling competition in Tipperary for all post-primary schools and it is very successful, but there is no room for complacency if it is to maintain its high standard. The competition was played in a great sporting spirit which in itself reflects great credit on the respective schools and their games' masters.

The Croke Cup, which is an under-16 hurling competition for C.B.S. schools, was this year captured by Nenagh C.B.S. for the first time in a number of years. After a wonderful final with Thurles C.B.S. at Roscrea, Nenagh C.B.S. emerged victors by a three point margin.

In keeping with Central Council policy of uniting all post-primary games eventually it is hoped next year to have the Croke Cup an under-16 hurling competition for all post-primary schools in the county. In this way it will be a preparatory competition for the following year's Canon Fitzgerald Cup competition.

Last year also saw the fine work of Br. David Ryan and fellow trainers in Carrick-on-Suir C.B.S. reaping its rewards. The Carrick school achieved success in two Munster hurling competitions, under-17 and under-15½. Let's hope that the young boys will

continue to improve and perhaps achieve greater success in 1979-80.

The young boys of Roscrea C.B.S. are being coached in skills of hurling by Br. Madigan. Last year they had a very impressive under-14 hurling team which were beaten in the semi-final of the Rice Cup by eventual winners Mount Sion, Waterford. If the rate of progress is maintained Roscrea C.B.S. could emerge again a very strong force in Munster Colleges B competitions as they were during Tadgh O'Connor's school days.

As one directly involved in arranging many of those post-primary school games no account would be complete without a word of sincere thanks to the various clubs who make their fields available and those very loyal referees without whom we would be unable to keep going.

In this context I would like to thank the Sportsfield Committees of Emly, Bansha, Cashel, Holycross, Boherlahan, Nenagh, Roscrea, Moneygall, Thurles, Templemore and Clonmel. We are very lucky to have so many good hurling pitches in Tipperary. I must say that we far and away surpass most other counties in this aspect.

My thanks also to referees George Ryan, John Moloney, Joe McNamara, Liam Ryan, Gerry Ring and Martin O'Grady, for the wonderful help they give us. A word of special thanks to Martin O'Grady (Moyne) who, last year refereed about seven games in midweek in the Canon Fitzgerald Cup. I hope that his dedication, loyalty and integrity will be honoured by bigger ventures with the whistle in the years to come. ■

## St. Mary's Camogie Club Newport/Kilcommon

1979 HAS BEEN another great year for St. Marys (Newport/Kilcommon) Camogie team. In 1978 we had the great honour of winning our first ever County Senior title after appearing in three consecutive county finals, and also the Ann Frazer Cup which is a competition run for both Junior and Senior clubs.

This year we had to defend our title as the saying goes for these two cups. In the Senior Championship we again came face to face with our great rivals in the years - Drom/Inch. Needless to say both sides were given a 50/50 chance - St. Marys for winning their second title and Drom recapturing the title. From the very start it was a ding-dong affair with very little between either side. Both sides were rather lucky with the scores and it was anyone's game up to the final whistle. However, St. Marys just hung on to their deserved margin of one goal to take the honours for the second year in a row.

We didn't have any luck in the Munster Club Championship. Having received a walk-over from Kerry we faced the Clare champions in Newport. Having already beaten this team on two previous occasions our hopes were high of reaching the Munster final. However, things were not to be and perhaps the attitude before the game was the cause here.

Next came the Ann Frazer Cup and to reach the final we played Moycarkey and Por-

troe who were the recent County Junior Champions. Everything looked on the cards for a win for this young Portroe team but a last score on the hour won the day for us and earned us a place in the final against St. Bernadettes (Roscrea). We knew in playing Roscrea it would not be easy and neither was it. However, as again in the County Final it was just a score before the end that won it for us. So indeed a great year for St. Marys.

We also had the honour for having a representation of three from the club on the County Senior team who were defeated by Antrim in the All-Ireland final and it was a great honour indeed to have one of our players, Maureen Maher, captain of this great team. Maureen was a great captain and player as were her team mates - Mary Griffin and Pauline Starr.

Off the playing fields it was also a joyous year for the Club. Maureen Maher and Patricia Quigley both enjoyed wedded bliss and we wish them both years of happiness and prosperity.

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# Clonmore's rise to glory

CLONMORE (AN CHLUAIN MHÓR) means "the big meadow". In this area it means: dry land surrounded by a bog. At the time of the famine there were 2,500 people living in the area. The population fell to 1,000 people in two and a half years, as many died during the famine or emigrated to America. At present there are only 300 people living in the area known as Clonmore.

In the beginning of the century many people in this district earned their living cutting and selling turf, tilling the soil and living true to the Gaelic tradition of famed Knocknagow. Many workers came into the area as potato-pickers, lived, married and remained there.

The little village and Church of Clonmore lies about five miles east of the town of Templemore between Templetuohy and the parish of Errill in Co. Laois. Clonmore is part of the parish of Templemore. Killea, also in the parish have a hurling team. Clonmore have some Templemore men on their hurling team and Templemore Eire Óg footballers draw from the hardy men around Clonmore. Templemore was always regarded as a football town. Killea, north of the town, played hurling and produced one of Tipperary's greatest hurlers of the 30's – and indeed I would go so far as to say – the most typical Tipperary hurler of them all – the legendary teak-tough, towering Tommy Treacy; his spirit still lives on among the hurlers "round Carden's Wild Domain". Hurling was strong in Killea during Tommy's young days. Killea joined with

## Br. S. Ó Páircín

Castleiney and won a Mid Senior Hurling title in the year 1928; but a delayed Mid Final was never played, as Clonoulty nominated to represent Mid, were suspended after the County final against Boherlahan.

The Clonmore side of the parish of Templemore must have felt that their young men were not given the chance to display their talents at the games of the Gael; they formed their own club in 1922.

During the first decade of their existence the Clonmore club met with little success. The first break-through came in the year of the Eucharistic Congress, 1932 when they won their first Mid No. 2 Junior Hurling final. They beat a Horse and Jockey team after a replay. From that year onwards, try as they did they won no major trophy and the club was not in a very healthy position.

Around 1960 Clonmore and Killea joined forces. Killea looked after the hurlers and Clonmore took the Junior footballers. This venture was not that

successful either. Killea did reach a No. 2 Junior Final (in the year 0000) but were beaten by two points by a lively Glen-goole team which included the young Kiely brothers, Larry and Seamus.

In 1968 Clonmore re-organised itself again. Clonmore club got a new lease of life and has not looked back since. They decided to fully concentrate on hurling. It paid off. The rise to glory had begun.

Why the upsurge of hurling, you may ask?

I would say the answer lies in the schools. In Templemore CBS they have a power-house, a stronghold of hurling second to none in the country. The Brothers and teachers there, were dedicated to hurling and promoted it in the schools, both Primary and Secondary. The biggest factor was, a man called Costigan from Clonakenny who attended the Secondary school, was a member of the victorious Br. Rice Cup teams trained by Br. O'Connell from New-castlewest and nurtured by Br. Norris, a Dubliner that knows his hurling and his hurlers. They boy John Costigan, now teaching in his beloved Alma Mater has insured the club of a plentiful supply of young talent, well-trained, well-coached and well disciplined. The rest is easy. Others become famous in reaping the seed so meticulously sown. The rise to glory continues. To John we say a sincere Thank You.

Came '78! 'Twas a Clonmore man, Martin Bourke, that captained the Harty Cup team and the All Ireland Colleges



*Clonmore Mid-Division Intermediate Champions*

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team. He was assisted by his brother Joe, Eamon Cody, Mick Ryan, Liam Farrelly and Noel Fogarty – six staunch members of the Clonmore Club and some subs, too.

Club and school have profited much from their great dedication to hurling during the 70's. Since 1970 the club has shown wonderful consistency.

They have played in seven Mid Finals, winning five – two No. 2's and three No. 1's. Many of this young team that started in 1970 are still playing for the club. Thirteen of the 1974 team are still on the 1979 team panel. The team has been dominated by a few families. On the team were seven Bourkes, three Mahers, two Egans, two Doyles and two Fitzpatricks.

Mention must be made of the great Bourke family who have played such an important role on the Clonmore side during the past few years.

Paddy played on the County Senior team; Séamus has worn the county jersey with distinction at Minor, U-21 and Senior level. Martin captained the victorious Templemore CBS team. Johnny is teaching in the CBS Secondary school Templemore. Tommy, Philly and the youngest Joe are all hurlers of skill and dedication.

The Seventies were, without doubt, the Golden Years of the club as the following data should indicate:

1970 – Clonmore No. 2 Junior hurlers beat Moycorkey in the Mid Final – the first Championship trophy in 48 years.

1971 – Beaten in No. 1 Hurling by Clonakenny and Upperchurch.

1972 – Beaten in No. 2 Mid Final by Thurles Kickhams

1973 – Beaten in No. 2 Hurling by Clonakenny 1-6 to 0-8 (first round).

1974 – Won No. 2 Mid Final when Beating Moyne.

1975 – Surprised everyone when they won the No. 1 Mid Final when they beat Gorthnahoe. They beat Solohead in the County Semi-Final. They were narrowly beaten by St. Mary's, Clonmel in the County Final.

1976 – Beaten by Upperchurch in No. 1 Mid Final.

1977 – Beaten by Upperchurch in No. 1 Mid Semi-Final.

1978 – Won No 1 Mid Final by defeating Gorthnahoe. They beat Golden in County Semi-Final and narrowly lost to Kilruane in County Final.

1979 – Won Intermediate Mid Final by defeating Boherlahan. In the County Semi-Final they beat a gallant Templederry team by two points (2-10 to 2-8). This game was a thriller and one of the best Junior games seen at Semple Stadium for years.

The secret of success is hard work. These hurlers are dedicated, disciplined and determined. Most of the team do not

drink or smoke. They train three times a week in the well-kept Templemore GAA field. The training is strict; the aim is to be fast, alert, crisp and skillful, thereby developing body, mind and soul.

So, on to another Intermediate County Final. (Win or lose) Clonmore will be in Senior grade in the Eighties. In '78 and '79 they reached the County Final. A strong tradition of hurling and successes were built up in the seventies. A Senior Hurling team in the Parish of Templemore is what everyone in the parish would wish to see. It may take a few years in the eighties to reach the very top, but with the wealth of hurling talent that is being produced by the schools in the town and by a very active Juvenile Committee, there is great hope for the future. Their neighbours Loughmore/Castleiney will have a senior team, too; I have no doubt about it. What a great day this will be for Tipperary when the ash will proudly reign as king "round Carden's Wild Domain."

Then rise ye men 'round Templemore  
And hasten to the fray  
And join your friendly neighbours  
Those grand hurlers from Killea.  
With men like Tommy Treacy bold  
Great honour will we gain  
The Senior Cup we'll raise it up  
In Carden's Wild Domain.  
"Ní neart go cur le céili".

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# COUNTY SENIOR FOOTBALL ACTIVITIES FOR 1979

THE 1978/79 LEAGUE PROGRAMME was completed with defeats by Limerick at Askeaton and by Offaly at Templemore. The 1979/80 League programme opened on a bright note with a fine victory over Meath at Clonmel.

A draw at Kilrush gave us a very valuable point, the best result Tipperary have achieved at this venue in recent years. Limerick were easily beaten at Clonmel, and with the Laois game deferred to the second half of the League, this gave us five points out of a maximum six.

The League recommenced in October and regretfully an understrength team were beaten by four points by Laois at Portlaoise. There are still four remaining games to be played: Clare and Laois at home and Limerick and Meath away.

Victories in all these games could at least put us in a position to force a play-off.

## LEAGUE TABLE AT 21-10-79

	Pl.	W	L	D	Pts.
Laois	5	4	-	1	9
Clare	5	2	1	2	6
Tipperary	4	2	1	1	5
Meath	5	2	3	-	4
Limerick	5	-	5	-	0

In the Munster Championship at Clonmel we had a very convincing win over Waterford. A win over Clare in a challenge at Bansha on the Monday previous to our clash with Cork augered

well for our chances. Alas, it turned out to be a big disappointment. We proved no match for a Cork team that was superior in all areas.

A County panel took part in the "All-Ireland 7-a-side" Championship at Na Fianna grounds, Mobi Road, Dublin, on the eve of the All-Ireland Football Final. We were in a group with Meath, Offaly and London.

Meath beat us by 5-14 to 2-13; Offaly defeated us by 4-4 to 2-3; We defeated London by 6-9 to 4-6.

Our sincere thanks to Na Fianna Club for their kind invitation. It provides a wonderful opportunity to play against and to watch some of the top class counties in action.

As a result of a motion passed by Convention an attempt was made to run an All-County League. This league eventually fell through for one reason or another.

The County Championship resulted in Loughmore and Galtee Rovers getting to the final. Played at Clonmel it failed to attract the large crowd a county final deserves. Loughmore won back the crown they last held in 1977 with a convincing win over a disappointing Galtee

team.

They now go on to represent the county at Inter-Club level and we wish them every success in their efforts.

The following is a list of the County Championships, draws and results:-

## COUNTY SENIOR FOOTBALL

**First Round** — Kilraune v. Cappawhite; Fr. Sheehy's v. Ardfinnan; Aravale Rovers v. Multeen Rovers; Loughmore v. Sean Treacys; Cahir/Ballyporeen v. Kilruane; Moyle Rovers v. St. Nicholas; Cashel v. Solohead; Mullinahone v. Fionn Mac Cumhaill; Golden/Rockwell v. Kilsheelan.

Byes — Lattin/Cullen, Galtee Rovers, Silvermines, Commercial, Fethard, Templemore, Borrisoleigh.

**Second Round** — Kilruane v. Lattin Cullen; Borrisoleigh v. Fionn Mac Cumhaill; Moyle Rovers v. Templemore; Loughmore v. Golden/Rockwell; Fethard v. Silvermines; Galtee Rovers v. Ardfinnan; Arravale Rovers v. Cappawhite; Commercial v. Cashel.

**Third Round** — Kilruane v. Fionn Mac Cumhaill; Moyle Rovers v. Loughmore; Fethard v. Galtee Rovers; Cappawhite v. Commercial.

**Semi-Finals** — Kilruane v. Loughmore; Galtee Rovers v. Commercial.

**Final** — Loughmore v. Galtee.



BACK ROW (Left to Right) — Sean Kearney, V. O'Donnell, S. McCarthy, Gene McGrath, Ml. Hanly, C. Bonnar, Philip Ryan, E. Doherty.

FRONT ROW (Left to Right) — Tom McGrath, P. O'Neill, A. Mahony, John Keane (Capt.), Wl. Riordan, Ml. Downes, Kevin Bannon.

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AS A YOUNGSTER I grew up in the old two-wall Handball court in Clogheen's old Military Barracks and took a very keen interest in the game and more so when they demolished this old court and replaced it with a four wall one. The steady progress the game has made over the last twenty years is, mainly, the result of a great drive from our administrators, spearheaded by our General Secretary, Joe Lynch, who has given the past twenty five years towards the development of handball and no doubt that's why his nick-name is "Mr. Handball". Great credit is also due to the R.T.E.'s Top Ace Competition which takes place each year, and another competition that boosted handball must surely be the introduction of the Willwood Tailteann, confined to underage handballers ranging from Under-12 years to Under-16 years.

During my 20 years as a person involved in the promotion of handball within Tipperary I have met real handball followers, such as Jack Killackey and Eugene Kennedy from Tipperary town, who between them administered the game in our county for a long number of years. Jack was Treasurer, while Eugene was Secretary. Another was Fr. O'Dwyer, one of the gentlemen of handball and who gave years of service as Chairman of the County Board. There are just a few memories of the past but looking at the players one must remember the names of the Cleere brothers, Tommy and Connie, from that great handball town, Nenagh, where the great Hassett brothers came from, and then we had from the south of the county Paddy Hickey and Tom Breedy, who between them played some delightful handball and whenever they met the Cleere brothers, what a game was in store from these four fellows. John Cleary from Tipperary Town is another name that comes to mind and like the previous names mentioned, he was one player who had two hands of equal strength and while John lost his partner, Philip McLoughlin, who emigrated to the United States, if this player had stayed at home a lot more would have been heard of himself and Cleary. But one will always remember the names of Joe Bergin, the Collins brothers, J. Sweeney and of course Mick Griffin and while I didn't see all of these in action, only Griffin is the one who I saw, and while he's still active in playing the game today and although now he has turned the age of fifty years, he's still to match any of the young players when he plays the game.

Then of course you have John Ryan and Mick Shanahan from Mid-Tipperary

## A STROLL DOWN MEMORY LANE

who were Handball experts in their game and this they proved when after a lapse of thirty-one years they captured the Senior Handball Doubles Title.

### OUR YOUNG PLAYERS

Looking at today's handball players in the county, one can be assured in another twenty years one can write of handball as one of recreation for young and old. In today's game you have a choice of two games, the old game of 60 x 30 and the relatively new code of 40 x 20. Some of the experts say the game of 40 x 20 will be our game. This I don't believe for when you see a good game of 60 x 30 then people can judge for themselves. But one thing about the small court you can play the game at sixty years of age. In the United States, from information received, people play the game at Seventy, so what do you think of this and all we have to do now is live long enough.

One can think of famous names who will surely grace our playing courts over the next twenty years, such as the Ryan brothers, Tony and Noel, who between them this year won six All-Ireland titles and with the younger brother of the two, Tony, reaching this year's Top Ace Semi-Final. So can we have another Joe Hackett in our midst. Looking at Ryan he has everything the game requires, two great hands and a hard shot of the ball, while Noel could become an expert in the Handball code with his left hand toss and his hard shot in play. Tom Morrissey who came into Senior handball this year and became the first ever county player since the introduction of the open draw some years ago, will be like the Ryans, one of future hopes for bringing back a Senior title to our county. Do you know it's twenty-nine years since we won a Senior Singles Soft Ball Title.

Juvenile handball over the past years has become well contested and has proved of great benefit to our handball activities. When you look at players who have surfaced to become future stars, just look at Willie O'Donnell, for the past three years has won a total of five Minor All-Ireland titles. Some people will argue that O'Donnell was Tony Ryan's partner for two years, not so because this year he won two Minor singles titles, but with a bit of help from his club this young star could blossom into a future star.

Since the formation of handball in Cashel a few years ago, they have become the club who produce juvenile handballers each year and this year was

no exception. Having won seven county championships they also produced six players for our counties Inter-County League in which they won outright. On this performance handball has a future in Cashel. Another player who at the age of fourteen years became champion in two grades, 40 x 20 and 60 x 30, that's John Woodlock from Fethard. Like previous names I've mentioned this player has everything a player requires, dedication and stamina.

So now I would like to finish with a few names of people that I've been associated with, such as Dan Butler from the Horse & Jockey, who like myself has been involved in the promotion of the game around the Jockey. Then of course you have Tom Ahern from the Ballina Club, who for the past three years was County Chairman, a man who has travelled the width and breadth of our country and farther afield to be present to see our county participants in handball games. This is a wonderful thing to see but while Tom will be vacating this position as Chairman in December, we can expect to see him among us in years ahead as an advisor, we hope.

One person who I had the pleasure of his company, but has since departed to his eternal reward and that's Tom "Sergeant" Fitzgerald from Clonmel and better known to us all as "Sergeant". It came as a great shock to every handball follower within our county when we heard of his sudden death.

These are just a few memories of the past and looking at the future, handball will no doubt be the game of the '80's.

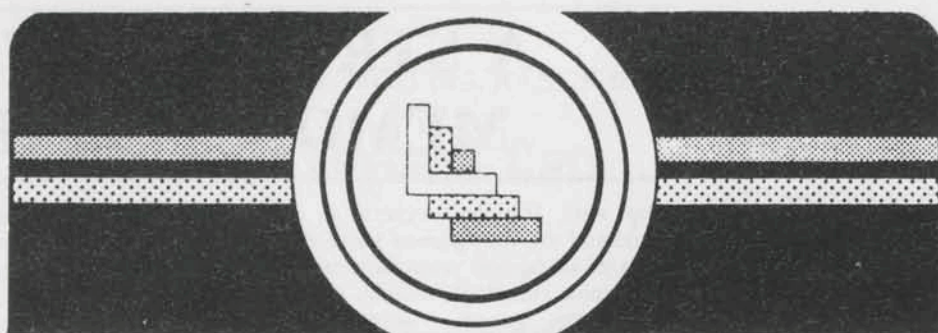
### TONY RYAN ACHIEVEMENTS 1979

All-Ireland Junior Single Champion (Soft Ball); All-Ireland Junior Singles Champion (American Court); All-Ireland Under-21 Singles Champion (American Court); All-Ireland Junior Doubles Champion (Hard Ball); Winner of the Under-22 Atlas International Trials; Semi-Finalist in Top Ace '79. Total All-Ireland Titles for 1979 - Five.

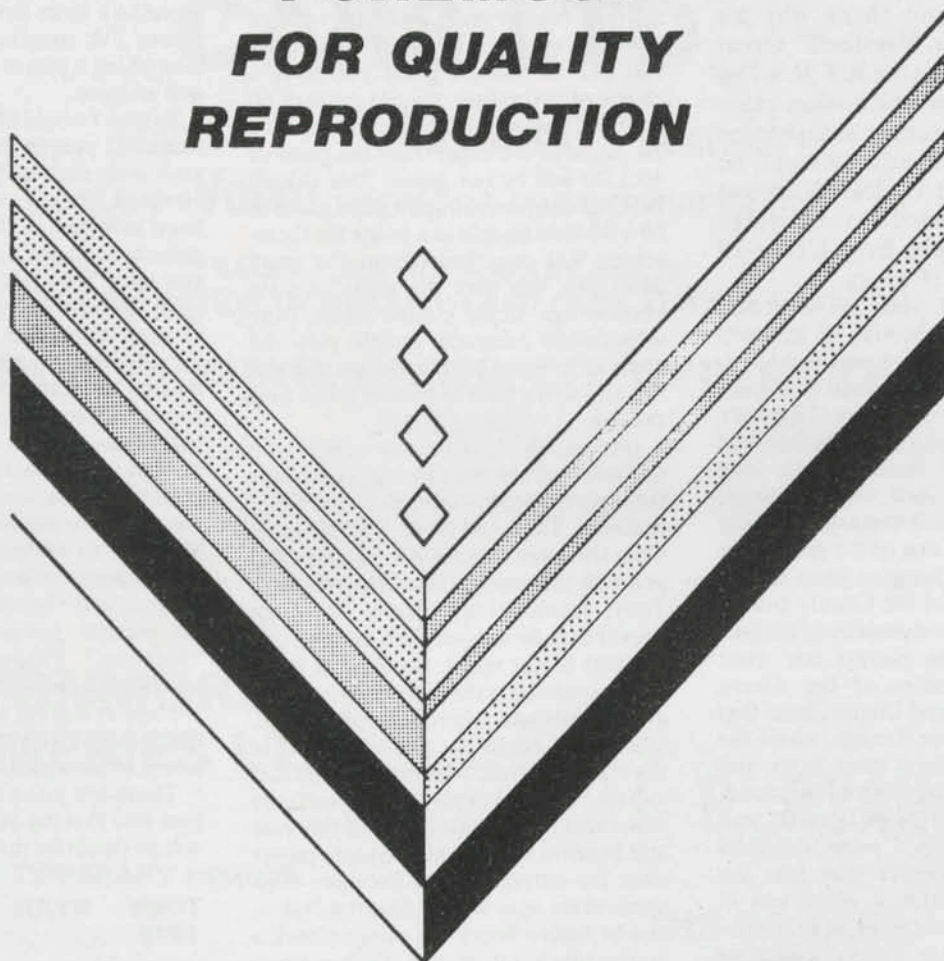
### NOEL RYAN ACHIEVEMENTS 1979

All-Ireland Junior Single Hardball Champion; All-Ireland Junior Doubles Hardball Champion; Runner-up in Gael Linn '79. Total All-Ireland Titles - Two.

The Ballypatrick Club now hold the record of having won the most All-Ireland Titles in the one year, a total of seven. ■



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Socraíodh go leanfaí den comhrac in Aonach Urúin ach nuair a tháinig an lá bhí an phairc faoi uisce agus b'éigin é a cur ar ath-ló arís. Bhí sé déannach go leor sa bhliain nuair a tháinig an lá mór, ach bhí fatha eile leis sin seachas a bhfuil luaite go dtí seo. Bhí deachrachtai ag an gCoiste Chontae ach bhí siad den tsórt a thaitin leo agus ní mór a ra go mhéadh fáilte roimh a leithéid i lathair na huair. Bhí foirne an chontae ag gnóthú Craobh na hÉireann san iomáint sna trí grád a bhí ann an uair sin, sinsear, soisir agus mionúr, agus ní nach ionadh b'éigin craobh-cluichí an chontae a cur siar dá bharr.

Ní raibh aon ábhar cainte sa teach againne, nó sa sráid baile, ach an cluiche ceannais, ar feadh míosa roimh ré. Ní h-ionadh san mar bhí uncail liom agus cúigear eile on bparóiste ag imirt le Tuaim Uí Mhéara. Bhí an tuairim go leathan go raibh an lámh uachtair ag "na Coin" an chéad lá i nDúrlas ach gur scaoil siad an greim a bhí acu sna noiméid deireannacha, agus bhí fhios ag an saol nach mbéadh moill ar Bhóthar Leathan breith ar an bhfaill nuair a gheobhaidís deis mar sin.

Bhí eagla ar mo athair go sciobfadh "na diabhaill sin ó Bhóthar Leathan" an craobh leo arís mar a rinne siad go minic cheanna. "Ta gliocas an tsionnaigh iontu," a duairt sé, "agus go h-áirithe ag muintir Uí Laocha".

## AN LÁ MÓR

Tháinig an lá agus nach orm a bhí an bród nuair a tugadh áit dom i ngluaistean, sean model T, in éineacht leis na h-imreoirí. Bhí na bóithre go hAonach Urúin plúdaithe le daoine, cuid ag siúl,

cuid ar rothair, cuid le capall no asal agus carr, agus cuid eile fos i ngluaistean, agus iad go léir ag dfríú ar an bpáirc imeartha. Isteach go Teach Ósta Mhic an Ghoill i Sráid Uí Chianáin a chuamarna mar is ansin a bhí an t-ullmú agus an gléasadh le déanamh i gcomhair an chluiche. No raibh siad gann ar chomhairle ná focal sa chluis ó dhaoine a bhí ag gabháil isteach agus amach le gloinní móra agus iad eolach ar gach cleas iomána dá mba fhíor doibh féin.

Faoi dheire thugamar aghaidh ar an bpáirc agus camán á iompar agamsa chomh maith le h-aon imreoir. Nuair a shroicheamar an geata scaoileadh saor isteach na h-imreoirí, agus daoine nach iad a rug greim ar chamán chun an daladh mullóg a cur ar na fir ag an geata.

Bhí suíochán agamsa ar an taobh líne agus gnó agam ag tabhairt aire do chótaí na n-imreoirí agus deallramh agam le Naomh Pól i bhfeidhil éadaí na bhfear a mharaigh Naomh Stíofán. Ach amháin nár maraíodh éinne ag an gcluiche seo ce go raibh consúlacht ann uaireanta go raibh a leithéid ar intinn ag cuid acu agus ní raibh easpa spreagadh ón taobh líne chuige.

De réir a chéile bhí Tuaim Uí Mhéara ag ropadh chun tosaigh. Bhí Ó Cinnéide ar fheabhas agus Seán Ó Laocha ag iarraidh srian a coiméad air le gach cleas dár cheap lan-chúl riamh, ach cé go raibh an sprid go láidir ann bhí an aois ag brú ar na cosa.

## AN CORN BUAITE

Ba dhóbhair go raibh deire tagaithe le réim Bhóthair Leathan. Bhí siad ag dul in aois, ualach na mblianta ortu agus meáchan na n-onórach a ghnóthaigh siad le fada á mbrú síos. Ní mór a rá nárbh aon sicíní iad foireann Thuaim Uí Mhéara ach an oiread. Bhí a bhfurmhór thar deich mbliana is fiche an lá sin ach bhí faobhar géar san imirt acu agus iad ciocrach chun bua a fháil.

Nuair a séideadh an fheadóg ag deire bhí "na Coin" in uachtar agus an Corn tuillte go maith acu. Níl trácht ar an tabhairt amach agus an céiliúradh agus an ruaille buaille a bhí ann tar éis an chluiche. Chuaig an slua le baini, ag lúirigh is ag crathadh lámh le na céile. Nuair a thánamar ar ais go dtí an baile mór bhí na sráideanna plúchta le daoine agus na títhe tábhairne lán go doras agus daoine ag brú amach ar na cosáin, pionntaí in a lámha acu agus áthas in a gceoithe.

Bhí béile agamsa sa Teach Ósta

chomh maith le cach. Bhí ceol agus amhráin ar siúl an t-am go léir gan stad, fiú amháin ag daoine nach raibh nóta in a gceann acu. Agus chun a gceart a thabhairt do imreoirí Bhóthair Leathan, no raibh siad chun deire leis an comhgáirdeas agus ghlac siad páirt sna h-imeachtaí dfreach is da mba acu a bhí an bua.

Bé an chéad uair agamsa aithne a cur ar Shéan agus ar Phádraig Ó Laocha agus ar Phádraigh Ó Duibhir, iad triúr imithe ar shlí na frinne anois, beannacht Dé leo. Cé nach raibh ionam ag an am ach buachaill scoile bhí siad go breá cneasta cáirdiúl liom agus mé in a measc ag ól buidéal in dhiaidh bhuidéil liomóide, agus mhair an cáirdeas sin tríd na mblianta in a dhiaidh sin.

## AN BÓTHAR ABHAILE

Bhí sé timpeall a dó a clog ar maidin nuair a dhágamar Ostán Uí Mhéara áit a raibh spórt is siamsa go dtí sin. Ach ní raibh an oíche thart fós. Bhí gach éinne den chomhlúadar againne go meidhreach faoin am seo agus ba mhór an fhaidh acu an gluaistean a cur ag gluaiseacht. Ba dheachair casadh a bhaint as an Model T, an t-am sin den oíche agus ní ró stuama a bhí na h-iarrachtaí a bhí a dhéanamh an treo sin. Ba dhóbaire do dhuine amháin a lámh a bhriseadh ag iarraidh an lámh dhuisithe a chasadh agus d'eirigh aragóint dá bharr. Bhí siad stuacach go leor chun a céile ach d'fhan mise im thost sa suíochán cuil agus smaoinemh agam nach mbainfinn an baile amach roimh an scoile.

Nuair a bhí an sceal ag imeacht chun donais agus cuma gruama air, tháinig fear meidhreach amach as an Ostán agus ar éigin a choinnigh sé na cosa faoi, ach scread sé amach "Up Toom". Ba leor san chun gach ní a cur in a ceart arís. D'fhreagar an comhlúadar go léir an lu, creathadh lámha mór thimpeall agus ar ámharaí an tsaoil phreab an t-inneall chun beocht an céad casadh eile a baineadh as an lámh agus ar aghaidh linn chun bóthair.

Bhí sé a trí a clog nuair a bhaineamar amach an sráid-bhaile. Nuair a bhí mé ag déanamh ar no theach ghlaoigh m'uncail orm: "Ná h-abair focal le h-éinne faoi imeachtaí na h-oíche seo," arsa sé. Agus ní dúirt mé. Bhí sé níos mó ná dachad bliain in a dhiaidh sin sar ar scaoil mé focal le h-aon duine. Ba mhór an t-omós a bhí againn do laochra an lae sin agus ní scaoilfimis rún orthú. ■

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# SOUTH DIVISION REPORT

CHAMPIONSHIP ACTIVITY on the South Tipperary playing fields began as early as March 11th and the first title to be decided was in Minor Football in July. At the time of writing, three championships are undecided, and a total of 131 games have been played, yielding record gate receipts.

For the first time the Senior Hurling Championship was run on a one Group League system which guaranteed each team a minimum of six games. Some splendid ties were witnessed before the semi-finalists emerged. The draw ordained that holders Swan were matched with their great local rivals Davins whilst the 1978 runners-up Fionn MacCumhaill faced surprise packets St. Augustines drawn from Kilsheelan and Fethard. Fionn MacCumhaill were first to gain a place in the decider as they defeated St. Augustines by 4-11 to 1-14 at Clonmel. The all Carrick team clash at Davin Park attracted a fine attendance and ended in an exciting draw at 3-7 each. The replay was of even greater appeal and after another tight tussle the Davins ousted the champions by a two point margin 0-11 to 2-3. The final was played at Clonmel on August 5th under inclement weather conditions and the attendance suffered as a result. However, the game itself proved most entertaining and favourites Davins won through by 1-10 to 1-7 against a gallant Fionn MacCumhaill fifteen that won many friends in defeat. The winners owed much to the efforts of Jimmy Ryan, captain; Ralph O'Callaghan, Tom Roche, P. J. Ryan and Joe Kennedy.

Sadly both our representatives failed to survive the County quarter-finals with Davins going under to Cappawhite and

Fionn MacCumhaill failing to Sean Treacys.

The Senior Football Championship was run as heretofore on a knockout basis and holders Fethard qualified to meet Clonmel Commercial in the decider. Kilsheelan was the venue and the occasion was blessed with excellent weather conditions which helped to swell the crowds. Sadly, however, the game was not in keeping with the setting as Fethard went on to win comfortably over a very disappointing Clonmel side. Outstanding for the winners were Michael Healy, A. B. Kennedy, Joe Allen, Mick O'Riordan, John Kane and Pat Kenrick.

## BALLINGARRY SUCCESS

Ballingarry won their way to the Intermediate hurling final by defeating holders Killenaule in the semi-final and the final against Fethard proved one of the most competitive games of the year. Fethard led the favourites a merry dance for fifty minutes but a great late rally from Ballingarry carried the day. Ballingarry went on to bring great honour to their club and indeed to the South Division by going on to defeat Sologhead and Clonmore and become the first holders of the Miller Trophy.

The Ballingarry minor hurlers did their bit to make 1979 really memorable

for the club by defeating St. Mary's after a thrilling minor decider but they failed to Knockavilla at the County semi-final stage. At the time of writing Ballingarry are still engaged in the under-21 hurling and football championships and could well add further laurels to an already impressive list.

Minor football provided the best competition for many years. It was heartening to see teams like Grangemockler, St. Augustines, Fr. Sheehy's, St. Finnans and Ballingarry all provide stiff opposition to favourites Clonmel Commercial. Fr. Sheehy's provided the final challenge and after a game of good quality football failed by five points. With players like Pa Maher, Michael Beston and Arthur Browne, however, they showed that the future of the game in the Clogheen area is secure.

Commercial went on to conquer Knockaville Kickhams after a replay but failed gallantly by the narrowest of margins to Loughmore/Castleiney in a great County Final.

Junior Football saw a first success for the Clonmel side Kickhams. Their final opponents were Carrick Davins who suffered defeat for the third successive year. Kickhams man of the match was Sean Kiely and he was ably assisted by Michael Boland, goalkeeper Arthur Daly and Donal Hogan. Junior hurling proved a frustrating competition with a number of objections and an investigation. As a result finalists Marlfield were disqualified and Mullinahone who had beaten Kilsheelan in the semi-final became champions by default.

Neighbours Cahir and Balalylooby/Castlegrace have qualified for the Intermediate football final while Eire Óg, the holders await Ballingarry or St. Mary's in the under-21 hurling final.

In the under-21 football final St.



BACK ROW (Left to Right) — D. Kane, D. Morrissey, N. Sharpe, Ml. Harrington, Ml. Kenrick, Joe Allen, Ml. Downes, Gerry Harrington, Davy Fitzgerald, A. B. Kennedy, Ml. Riordan.

FRONT ROW (Left to Right) — R. Hayes, P. Dillon, D. Williams, Ml. Healy, John Keane (Capt.), Pat Kenrick, Pascal Hanrahan, P. Harrington, Joe Keane.

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The standard of competition in all grades was highly satisfactory and all clubs cooperated fully in the expeditious running of the various championships.

Any revue of the year in the Division would not be complete without refer-

ence to the gallant band of referees who were always available often at short notice. It was particularly pleasing that for the first time in a long number of years all games were handled by referees from within the Division. In this regard particular praise is due to Billy Carroll and Tommy Lonergan who handled the

senior finals in faultless fashion.

Finally the thanks of the Division is due to all umpires, linesmen, gate checkers, programme advertisers, patrons and everyone who helped in any way to record another year of progress for the Association in the South Division.



*BACK ROW (Left to Right) — Paul Callaghan, John Moroney, Ml. Ryan, Pius Power, Joe Kennedy, Kevin Cronin, Ralph Callaghan, John O'Neill.*

*FRONT ROW (Left to Right) — John Murphy, Sean Power, Tom Roche, Jackie Walsh, P. J. Ryan, Ml. Ryan, Jimmy Ryan (Capt.).*

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# SCÓR PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

WHEN REVIEWING SCÓR, one is inclined to ask how successful has it been. In recent years we have had many All-Ireland successes in these competitions. Mahon O'Keeffe, St. Mary's, won the recitation for the second time in his career in the year just past. Mary Hogan, Shannon Rovers, sang her way into the judges favour to win the Munster final. Moycarkey-Borris figure dancers, Portroe novelty act and Newcastle set dancers took the runners-up trophies in the Munster finals. Our Scór na nÓg county winners did not have the same luck and while performing very well won no major honours last year.

## VERY SUCCESSFUL

If we measure success by honours won outside the county, Scór has been very successful. Yet too many of our clubs do not enter teams in Scór competitions. Many more just ask some performers to compete and enter the required four competitions to comply with the rules. A few clubs hold their own club competitions. They get outside judges and have a very enjoyable evening's entertainment of our native culture, and sometimes a profitable one for the club finances. The reasons for this are many and varied. Club officials spend a lot of time and energy during the summer preparing teams for hurling and football matches. Many are only too glad of a rest when winter time comes around. The answer to that is not a six mark question by any means. In all parishes we have many talented performers. There may be a branch of Comhaltas, a dramatic society for novelty acts. The Macra na Feirme clubs would probably have a few members who are fairly good at question time. All parishes have a dancing teacher who teaches our young girls and boys céili dancing. We all know many good singers and various other artists in areas who never entered for Scór.

Perhaps these clubs should consider electing a Scór committee. The members of this committee need not necessarily be G.A.A. members but a cross section of the cultural clubs mentioned. They would have the expertise in organising a Scór com-

petition in their parish and would give hard working club officials a well earned winter rest.

## UNITY

Scór would have a uniting effect in a community. Not everybody is sports-minded. A Scór well-organised would embrace all members, the young and not so young. Not many of our G.A.A. clubs include lady members. If there are tickets to be sold or catering to be done we ask members of the fair sex who are more than willing to help out their club. Here they can enter in competition on a level with the male members.

Looking back on last year's competitions within the county one would be inclined to say that Scór is strongest in the North Division. Ballad singers and traditional musicians seem to grow on every bush in the area. They won four county titles last year and deserved every one.

South is reasonably good. Considering the large number of clubs in the division it could be better. Only about half affiliated clubs taking part. Mid and West seem to be weakest. Many clubs in these divisions not affiliating teams are entering teams and failing to field. Indeed interest in Scór in these divisions seems to be receding.

## LOSS OF INTEREST?

What are the reasons for the loss of interest in Scór in these areas?

The main reason seems to be the competitive elements. If a singer or any other artist or group compete for a year or two and are beaten it's very hard to persuade them to try again.

Another reason we often hear is the old one - we were robbed! The judges must be blind and tone deaf. Now we do not suggest that adjudicators are infallible. We have all seen decisions we did not agree with. By and large they do a reasonably good job. If our hurlers and footballers took the same narrow view we would not have too many clubs. They play because they love the game.

Why don't our Scór contestants take the same view. We should be proud to represent our clubs. We

should love our native culture as we do our games. Who wins or loses is not as important as competing.

Travelling to various places for Scór competitions is for many a social occasion during the winter months. All clubs have their own faithful followers. Many fans will not miss a divisional or county final irrespective of what clubs are involved. The real draw of the competitions is certainly the set dance competitions. To hear a Newcastle or Moycarkey crowd cheer on their dancing heroes would remind one of Croke Park on All-Ireland day. Moycarkey have won All-Ireland set honours. Surely Newcastle's day of glory must come soon. We wonder is it coincidence that the familiar faces we see at these contests come from these areas.

## IMPROVEMENT

How could Scór be improved?

One of the biggest problems is to get through a long programme and finish in reasonable time. The Novelty Act is one of the biggest holdups in this respect. It sometimes takes longer to prepare the stage than the act itself. Four novelty acts of six minutes duration and another six minutes to get the stage ready. If my addition is right, a total of 48 minutes for one-eighth of the programme. If we dispense with novelty acts what do we replace it with? Maybe we should have a spot for comedians. What do you think?

In Question Time we have a team question tre Gaeilge. Most Teams have a teacher or somebody with a good knowledge of Irish. We think the Irish question could be a two-mark individual question. That would make all competitors in these contests take an interest in our Irish Language.

What are the advantages in material terms of competing in Scór?

Now we have not heard of any lucky contestants who got recording contracts or otherwise made it big by the reason of the coverage their performances got in the media or local press. This is one area where we could be better served. Our games are well published and rightly so.

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*Front: S. Devaney, S. Maher, S. Gleeson, M. Shaughnessy, T. O'Mara, T. Butler, C. Carroll, N. Ryan, G. O'Brien. Back: G. Mockler, A. Rossiter, S. O'Shea, T. Sullivan, L. Mulanney, G. Doyle, G. Kerrigan, C. Moriarty, D. Purcell. Inset: P. Murphy, J. Ryan, D. Moore.*

## DURLAS ÓG

THE SORRY STATE OF juvenile hurling and football in the town of Thurles was a matter of much anxiety to all in the county who are genuinely interested in the future of the game. For the "cradle town" to be at such a low ebb was not good for the games, but this year there has been a new awakening in Thurles – a revival prompted to two Corkmen, advanced by Kilkenny, Waterford and of course Tipperary interests.

The main instigator was Bro. Connie Higgins of Thurles C.B.S. who has done

such magnificent work for the promotion of the game in the primary school in Thurles. Bro. Higgins' work in the under-11 and under-13 age-group spilled over into the community scene generally, and abetted by Rev. Bro. Lombard, another Corkman, leagues were formed for boys in the under-10 and under-13 age-groups.

From the success of these leagues stemmed Durlas Óg, GAA club, the new juvenile hurling and football club in the town, its first president being Bro. Lombard, with Bro. Higgins as chairman. Other officers include – vice-chairman, Mick Carroll, a brother of Kilkenny hurler Ted, and a noted wielder of the caman in his own right. Secretary is Tommy O'Dowd; Treasurer, Sgt. Phil O'Meara; PRO, Michael Dundon.

The committee includes such well-known hurling names as Pat Stakelum and Mick Murphy, two Tipperary All-Ireland captains; P. J. Grace, Dick Coppinger, Michael Grogan, Jack O'Brien, Jimmy Coppinger, Brendan Maher, John Ryan, Larry O'Connor and Michael O'Dwyer.

The new club formally received the blessing of the three adult clubs in town, Sarsfields, Fennellys and Kickham, each of which pledged its support for "the following" at convention time.

Then came the task of fund-raising, and preparing team-panels. A considerable amount of time and effort was invested into preparing the boys for the championships, and their appetite for the games could readily be gauged from the huge attendances at the training sessions.

The outcome of the championships is now history. In its first year, Durlas Óg won the county under-12 hurling championship, and was beaten in the county final of the football championship in the same age-group. They also won the Mid under-14 football title – no mean beginning for the new club.

But much more important was the fact that Thurles was properly represented in juvenile hurling and football championships. This alone would have been an achievement – to win trophies – a very handsome and welcome bonus.

Apart from the championships, the club boasts a very healthy under-10 age group, surely an indication that a bright future lies in store for it.

However, a commitment is needed from the GAA people of Thurles to the club, because, in the long run, it is the adult clubs which will reap the benefits of the work of Durlas Óg. Officials are anxious to get as many as possible interested in their activities, and the response from parents in particular, has been most encouraging.

For too long the town has neglected its juveniles, and for this the adult clubs are largely to blame. Now that the lead has been given, it is to be hoped that these clubs will be seen to be to the fore in furthering the cause of Durlas Óg in the coming year. Bi linn and beidh linn. ■

*(continued)*

How many know who won last year's All-Irelands in the various Scór competitions? Other All-Ireland winners in other sports have had civic receptions when they came back to their hometowns. We have not heard of any civic reception in Clonmel for Mahon O'Keeffe! If you win an All-Ireland in hurling or football a trip to the U.S.A. is one of the awards of victory. We do not know of any Scór winners who have had any trip anywhere as a result of their victory! Yet our T.V. screens are full of foreign programmes, many of them alien to not only our Irish culture, but also to our Christian beliefs. We think that of all the talent on display in these competitions the real tragedy is that many of them only get one chance to perform a year. Surely there is an opportunity here for some enterprising club. What a night's entertainment we would get without the pressure of competition.

Now can you imagine the feelings

of a competitor on his first night's public performance, shall we say in solo song. He is waiting in the wings. The singer before him looks the picture of confidence. He sings beautifully and leaves the stage without a tremor. Our friend is shaking at the knees. His hands are sweating. His stomach is queasy and he hopes he won't get sick! The M.C. says your on now, he hears his name announced. He wonders how he allowed himself to get into a situation like this. He moves to the mike. The crowd looks as though they were waiting to devour him. He opens his mouth to sing. No sound comes forth. At the third attempt he starts to sing. After the first few lines he knows he is singing well. His confidence increases and he finishes in a burst of new found confidence. He leaves the stage with the applause of the audience in his ears. No matter who wins he has faced his Everest and was not found wanting. Public appearances will never again hold the same fear for him. It is the triumph of mind over matter. ■

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